■ NARCOTICS

Frankfurt anti-drug squad is fighting an uphill battle against organised dope-peddling

Police drug squads fighting the narcotics epidemic had to start again from scratch about one year ago. The realisation dawned that new methods were not all that was required. A new type of sleuth was needed to track down drugs and drug-takers.

Erich Panitz, 42, a senior criminologist attached to the Frankfurt criminal police recently embarked on a heated debate with the glossy magazine *twen*. The magazine claimed that the son of Frankfurt's number one drug fighter, by name Panitz, was himself a hashish pusher.

They will have a job proving it – Panitz jnr. is but ten years old!

Such is life for Erich Panitz. He is fighting an insidious menace and he has his enemies. There are those who make their fortune by destroying the minds of young people who know no better and Herr Panitz has no part to play in their scheme of things. When the enemy is narcotics the course of the battle is never foreseeable.

The childish belief that the German police force has always had a drugs squad may be fostered by third-rate 25-cent crime fiction, but is quite untrue. Narcotics pose a relatively modern problem.

Until 1969 the Frankfurt police headquarters employed just two part-time men as its drug "squad" and their duties also included prosecuting perjurers and people who tried unsuccessfully to diddle tram-drivers!

Their clientèle was a fairly regular



stream of recidivist drug offenders who had come into contact with the opiates and had not been able to shake off the habit. In 1968 in Frankfurt the number of indictable drug offences totalled just *five*.

Before Panitz was given the job of trying to stamp out the mass destruction of young minds for personal gain he had already made a name for himself in dealing with the extra-parliamentary opposition (APO). In those days even his adversaries respected him as a man of great intelligence.

Herr Panitz took from his crew of those days thirteen men, more than half, to form Frankfurt's anti-drug squad. Panitz said: "Most are under thirty, adaptable people who can adjust themselves to a world that is strange to them, and for whom the idea of knocking-off time is unknown."

The Panitz team holds the national record among police for overtime. The long hours are devoted to camouflaging themselves as the enemy, picking up the jargon, the mannerisms and the appearance of drug-takers and drug-pushers. The underworld even thinks that one of the team is himself a junkie. Herr Panitz swears that this is not true.

Another rumour doing the rounds is that the Panitz team does not bother with anyone possessing less than five grams of hashish. The boss said: "If we did the rounds of the pop festivals and stuck to the letter of the law two out of three would have to be rounded up and the figure would run into thousands."

Erich Panitz also views the problem of drugs in schools pragmatically. He said: "We even get phone calls from parents who think that such and such a schoolmaster is himself a pusher." He added: "School children form a group that keeps itself to itself more than any other."

With a good conscience the drug squad concentrates on the big boys. According to Erich Panitz they are sharper than in any other criminal sphere. Many of their methods are reminiscent of the secret service. There is a definite hierarchy. Rumours from the underworld suggest that groups of pushers and junkies employ their own teams of professional house-breaking experts to force entry into chemist shops and keep the supplies going.

Other rumours about the Panitz squad methods include one that says the team keeps back a proportion of confiscated narcotics as an enticement to stool-pigeons.

Erich Panitz denies this vehemently. His methods always come within the scope of the law.

His team lives dangerously, however, even when they are brought before courts as key witnesses such as in the recent Frankfurt drug pushers trial it [...] possible for them to keep their job[...] Their activities are so secret that af[...] Frankfurt trial a number of those [...] revealed that they were in fact part [...] drug squad.

In one case a large-scale pusher [...] price of 5,000 Marks on the head [...] member of the squad whom he, [...] rightly, assumed had shopped him [...] threat was so serious that this [...] officer had to be transferred to [...] duties.

Another source of information [...] from the groups of communes in F[...] furt of which there are thirty. The[...] know them all well. According [...] drug squad none of them exists an[...] on a purely political basis. They [...] drug dens

There are a number of worries fo[...] wiry man with the dark twinkling [...] One is that drug-pushers have lately [...] to arms. Their guns are not for use [...] the police but against their own [...] Dog is eating dog.

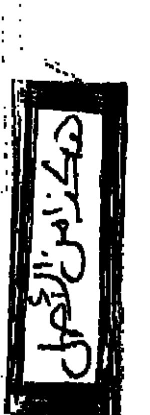
Another problem is that most bu[...] is conducted by telephone. One p[...] visited by Panitz had a number of [...] ordering drugs, but whereas prosti[...] is an offence in which phones [...] tapped if necessary, this is forbid[...] the drug world where it is far [...] necessary.

There is concrete proof that a [...]tinian organisation is attempting to f[...] its cause by pushing drugs on the Fe[...] Republic market.

Is there any hope for the hard-wo[...] drug squad? Mr Panitz smiled and [...] "We intercepted two consignment[...] LSD recently and the stuff became [...] to get, so there must be some poi[...] what we are doing." However it s[...] that the shortage has been made goo[...] the drugs market.

Joachim Neand[...]

(DIE WELT, 2 January 1[...])



The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Commission hides failure of Commonwealth Conference

No matter how fruitless an international conference may have been it can always manage to sire one cross-breed, the commission. Commissions are appointed when heads of state failed to reach agreement but are loath to admit the fact.

This is a practical and legitimate procedure provided the conference has at least made some progress towards a solution and only technical details remain to be clarified, the statesmen being unable for time reasons to deal with them.

A commission is, however, something of a farce when its true function is to save the conference from having been a fiasco and when the unsolved and insoluble problem is merely shelved.

This is what has happened at Singapore where the 31 Commonwealth countries met. The nine-day conference was from the word go a head-on clash between Edward Heath's Conservative government in Whitehall and the East African troika of Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda.

Attempts to balance debate by raising other main items on the agenda were nipped in the bud time and time again by the conflict between the two sides.

From start to finish Mr Heath maintained his view that is was Britain's inalienable right to pursue foreign policies guided solely by Britain's own national interests.

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The troika, though no less conscious of sovereignty, demand unilateral limitations of Britain's freedom of action from Mr Heath.

They not only insist that Britain once and for all go back on its treaty obligation to supply South Africa with naval equipment. They will not allow that Britain must view the apartheid state as an important factor in its defense of the Cape route.

The East Africans are prepared to acknowledge that Britain condemns the South African policy of racial segregation as much as all other Commonwealth countries but claim that London is thus morally obliged to refuse the South Africans all assistance.

At this point the strategic clash over South Africa, where Canadian Premier Pierre Trudeau feels a "new, far bloodier Vietnam" is in the offing, developed into a dispute over Commonwealth ideology.

The 900 million Commonwealth citizens in member-countries representing all five continents may be split into three factions and compromised by war and civil war between members but the East Africans nonetheless call for a common Commonwealth ideology, for an international grouping that has neither a written constitution nor a uniform political direction.

This outlook is to be based not on common economic and political interests or cultural and linguistic traditions but, in the final analysis, on the "ideology of anti-racism".

This ideology, President Nyerere of Tanzania proclaimed, "is the unspoken basis that all our ideologies have in common". This may be an idealistic postulate but hardly a Commonwealth manifesto.

It was hardly surprising that Mr Heath caustically replied in the ensuing breathless silence that he wondered why a number of Commonwealth countries were still in favour of ties with Britain.

The upshot of confused and fruitless debate was the unanimous decision to set up a study group to function as a fig leaf for an unsuccessful conference.

Britain and seven others (not including the East Africans, who were well-advised to steer clear of this tricky negotiating round) are to investigate the security problems of the Cape route over the next few months. This formula was evidently the most the point at issue, arms for South Africa, could be watered down.

Everyone realises that the study will be insignificant, indeed incomplete, if the commission does not deal with the problem of arms supplies.

The commission merely establishes an extremely dubious moratorium that by no means obliges Britain to remain inactive in the meantime. There is a latent danger that frustrated commission members such as India and Kenya may resign.

Still, the study gives the Commonwealth six months' grace (always providing, of course, that it is ever completed).

It is unlikely that in this short space of time tempers will cool down and members reconsider the advantages of the Commonwealth. Each of the protagonists has stated his point of view only too clearly and, so it would seem, irrevocably.

This half year's grace would thus appear to be sole reason why all concerned left Singapore seemingly most satisfied.

The set-to among gentlemen that had been feared did not occur. In its stead there may well be a slow erosion of the Commonwealth, a split between militant Africans and such Asian members as still consider the continued existence of the Commonwealth to be in their national security interests.

If the commission breaks up the headlines will not be as prominent as they would have been about a Battle of Singapore. The six months' grace also include a number of political imponderables that could alter the picture.

The Africans, for instance, reckon that the Heath government might fall (a new Labour government would reaffirm the arms embargo for South Africa).

This, however, would merely be a victory over Mr Heath. It would be neither a guarantee of the Commonwealth's continued existence nor that the end of its troubles are in sight.

Ulrich Grudinski

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 January 1971)

Visiting Poles

A Polish parliamentary delegation, headed by chairman of the Polish parliamentary foreign affairs committee, Artur Starewicz (far right), arrived at Frankfurt airport on 14 January for talks with Chancellor Willy Brandt and Walter Scheel. Mr Starewicz was met at the airport by Herbert Wehner (far left) of the SPD and Wolfgang Mischnik, FDP. The official interpreter is in the centre. (Photo: dpa)

Pompidou's idea of a united Europe

Europe was the subject of de Gaulle's grand vision based on the sanctity of nations, serving the interests of French independence (by which Europe too was to achieve independence) and springing the surprises that ensued in day-to-day politics.

Georges Pompidou, his successor, is first and foremost a pragmatist but he too is not lacking in imagination. But, it must be admitted, he does not take his partners by surprise.

The European confederation outlined by President Pompidou at his Elysée press conference is the result of a sprinkling of both creative imagination and down-to-earth political thought.

The mixture is what makes it such an attractive proposition. It reflects French thought and, within the French-speaking world, Gaullism, broadly speaking.

A confederation is a league of states. In the course of history there have been a number of them differing widely from one another. M. Pompidou's confederation would be a *confederation des patries* with a supranational government with limited powers, a grouping based on unanimous decisions, which is as much as to say that the right of veto is to be retained. The French President would even have members accept partial losses of sovereignty, though.

Regardless whether or not this concept is considered to be desirable M. Pompidou has certainly made a fairly clear outline of what he has in mind. There have been no Sibylline pronouncements; One knows where one stands.

One knows, for instance, that France does think in terms of the future but is prepared to take only small steps into it. It makes sound sense to put one foot in front of the other and as the future is not to take the form of a closely-knit federation the individual steps are cautious rather than brisk.

France does not support supranationality within the Common Market framework. Even such starting-points as are needed, say, for the currency union can only be gained from time to time and not inaugurated as part of a forceful grand design.

France will support and participate in everything that can be achieved without integration, as agreed at the December 1969 Hague conference.

The European Community may not have reached stagnation point but if this is to be the pace it will be a long way before M. Pompidou's plan for United Europe as a confederation, becomes reality.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 January 1971)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Reopening Suez important for Soviet interests

Will the Suez Canal be reopened this year? And who stands to gain most if it is – the Egytians or the Israelis, Russia or the West?

When Edward Heath paid Washington his first visit as British Premier the Suez Canal was one of the most important items on the agenda.

The same topic dominated his recent talks with Archbishop Makarios in Cyprus and is to the forefront of political and stategic considerations at the Commonwealth Conference in Singapore.

Technically speaking reopening the Canal presents no particular problems. Basing their calculations on experience gained in 1956 the Egyptians reckon it will take four to five months and cost 22 million dollars.

The Israelis are more sceptical that salvaging and redredging will take at least two years and cost 200 to 250 million dollars.

As in 1956, when the World Bank provided 56.6 million dollars towards the cost of reopening the Canal, Cairo is hoping for foreign capital assistance.

Japanese salvage firms head the list of companies interested in clearing the Canal of the sunken ships and mines that at present make it impassable.

In political and military terms a reopening would present problems that no one suspected would arise when, in June 1967, the Canal was closed as a result of the Arab-Israeli war.

Since 1967 the Soviet Union has gained such a firm foothold in the Middle East that a reopening of the Canal would in military terms be first and foremost to the Kremlin's benefit.

Over the past three and a half years the Soviet Navy in the Mediterranean has increased from five cruisers and the same number of submarines to thirty surface vessels and ten submarines based in Egypt, Syria, Libya and Algeria.

Dom Mintoff, leader of the Maltese Opposition Labour Party, only recently felt obliged to deny allegations that he would offer the Soviet Union the shipyard facilities vacated by Britain were he to win the forthcoming elections.

Ambiguously enough, though, Mintoff went on to note that he was prepared to negotiate with any power that would protect Malta from aggression.

He would only be prepared to conclude a pact with Britain on condition that the island is excluded from the Nato defence network.

The airstrips in Egypt used by the Soviet Union have increased in number from 21 in 1967 to thirty at the present time. Five hundred bombproof pads have been built for Soviet MiGs.

In the Indian Ocean the Soviet Union has moved in to plug the gap left when Britain pulled out in 1968. It at present has stationed there one cruiser, three destroyers, four conventional subs, and one nuclear submarine, one submarine mother ship and any number of supply vessels.

The Soviet Indian Ocean squadron operates from Hodeida in the Yemen, Berbera, Somalia, Socotra, an island at the entrance to the Red Sea, and Mauritius, where the Russians have negotiated fishing rights and an air base.

In Aden, brought virtually to a standstill since the closure of the Canal, 500 Russian, East Germans, North Korean and Bulgarian technicians have taken over from British personnel.

Soviet pilots fly the country's ten MiG jet fighters and five Antonov transport planes and the Aden harbour master and Khormaksar airport personnel are also Russians.

Ninety-eight Britons are fighting a losing battle, as it were, in staying on to man the oil refinery.

At the same time, much to Russia's disgust, more and more advisers are arriving from Peking, which is providing the People's Republic of the Yemen with arms and interest-free loans.

Reopening of the Suez Canal would allow the Soviet Union to link its Mediterranean and Indian Ocean flotillas and save Soviet trade with the Far East the really long way round of either the Cape of Good Hope or Vladivostok.

Prior to the June 1967 closure of the Canal 1,800 Soviet merchantmen a year, more than a tenth of Moscow's maritime trade, used the Suez route.

Reopening would also represent a direct financial gain for the Kremlin in that the Egyptian economy it is supporting would once more benefit from the foreign currency earnings of Canal dues.

Mind you, Egypt would them probably forfeit the 250 million dollars per annum it is at present receiving from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya to offset the loss of what used to be 220 million dollars a year in Canal revenue.

In view of the likely repercussions of a reopening of the Suez Canal in terms of power politics Mr Heath, in close consultation with President Nixon, has thoroughly revised British policy in the Middle East.

There is no longer a mention of Britain pulling out east of Suez by any means as fast as was intended.

In order to counter the Soviet presence in the Mediterranean the Prime Minister requested Archbishop Makarios to allow Britain to continue to use the Cyprus bases of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, where 12,000 men are still stationed.

In the Indian Ocean the Conservatives propose to resume military cooperation with South Africa, abandoned for many years because of differences of opinion over apartheid, and to sell arms to the South Africans.

There can be no doubt that the bargaining over a reopening of the Suez Canal is an important card in Israel's hand as far as the United States is concerned. The Israelis would also like to use the Canal, preferably achieving this aim with the aid of American assistance.

If they prove unable to do so Israel too would have little alternative but to participate in a pax Sovietica over Suez.

R. A. König

(WELT am SONNTAG, 17 January 1971)

European Common Market faces major difficulties

Over the next eleven months the European Common Market (EEC) faces the prospect of either taking the great leap forward or experiencing crises that for the first time in more than thirteen years would no longer be growing pains but the first signs of paralysis.

Success or failure depends on the fate of two projects: Britain's EEC entry bid and progress towards an economic and currency union.

The frequent claim that as a result of the boost in trade between each other EEC countries have such a vested interest in the continuation of the Common Market that they no longer dare break it up is mistaken.

The drawback of this point of no return theory is that the interest of all European countries in free trade could be upheld regardless of the EEC's demise. The only immediate loser would be industry, which would have lost a guaranteed home market.

The uncertainty has gained in momentum since the failure in mid-December of the first attempt to launch an economic and currency union, France not showing willing.

Paris objected less to the Five's 1980 target of a common currency, fixed rates of exchange and pooling of currency reserves (from which inflationary tendencies in France would stand only to benefit) than to the accompanying demands for a common economic policy aimed at keeping the value of money stable together with the necessary European decision-making and executive bodies.

Paris is not yet prepared to go into details of the amount of sovereignty it might or might not be prepared to surrender to European institutions.

Yet it has long been an acknowledged fact that there cannot be a currency union without a common economic policy designed gradually to obviate the need for de- and revaluation of member currencies.

In April 1966 while still French Premier President Pompidou himself called for a uniform EEC economic policy. Prior to the December 1969 Hague summit, however, he came to an agreement with Chancellor Brandt that a union would be established without new supranational, federal or EEC authori[ties].

Paris is now outraged because Bo[nn], like the other four members of [the] Common Market, is insisting on [the] establishment of new Common Ma[rket] authorities after all.

One point is clear. Without the lo[ng-]term target of a currency union w[ith] some kind of uniform economic po[licy] the present EEC customs and agricult[ural] union cannot be maintained.

Even assuming preparations for a c[ur]rency union are commenced forthw[ith], de- and revaluation as a result of the l[ack] of a common economic policy will no[t be] out of the question for six to eight ye[ars] at least.

Provisional and transitional arran[ge]ments to safeguard the common ag[ric]ultural market structure from the effe[cts] of exchange rate changes can only [be] made once there is no doubt whatsoe[ver] as to the final aim of a currency union.

Otherwise member governments [will] increasingly resort to national measures [in] respect of the farming community a[nd] the common agricultural market, one [of] the main reasons for French interest in [the] EEC as a whole, will disintegrate.

The entire EEC would then start [to] descend the slippery slope since in t[his] day and age even a customs uni[on] between highly industrialised countr[ies] can in the long term only be sustained [by] a unified economic policy ensuring fa[ir] competition.

Should, then, first moves in the dire[c]tion of a currency union fail to ma[te]rialise this year either because Par[is] disapproves for reasons of national sove[r]eignty or because Bonn opposes a pol[i]tical compromise for the opposite rea[son] the EEC will be faced with the threat [of] slow death.

A compromise, it must be added, ma[y] on no account call into question th[e] future federal nature of whatever arrang[e]ments are made.

Agreement must be reached on ge[n]erally acceptable terms for British entry otherwise Holland and maybe this coun[try] too will be tempted to block expan[sion] of the Community in other sector[s], this again being the beginning of the end.

Were the entry talks with Britain to f[ail] the future of the EEC would only b[e] ensured provided Whitehall and no[t] France or the Six were to blame.

British entry will, on the other hand, only be possible if the Six "lend a hand", to use a phrase privately employed by Common Marketeer Edward Heath himself, since the British Prime Minister must succeed in convincing the two thirds of his electorate that are against joining that they are mistaken.

Hermann Bohle

(Kieler Nachrichten, 21 January 1971)

Sekou Touré outrages world opinion

Maybe Hermann Seibold did commit suicide. Fear of the gallows may have prompted him to put an end to it all. Maybe, on the other hand, the prison warders did do the executioner's work for him.

President Sekou Touré of Guinea certainly lays himself open to this serious allegation and will continue to do so until he agrees to allow independent doctors to determine Seibold's cause of death.

Days beforehand Development Aid Minister Erhard Eppler, speaking in Bonn, warned against taking a too dramatic view of events in Conakry. Autocrat Sekou Touré seems to have paid precious little attention to Bonn's restraint.

For the time being Bonn has frozen development aid. But Guinea has already pocketed 55 million Marks' worth of aid from this country.

There have been many instances of Sekou Touré's strange diplomatic style of late. He announced that the GDR was to be recognised diplomatically then issued a denial. Full diplomatic relations between the two countries have since been established.

Sad to say there are grounds for suspecting East Berlin diplomats of having a hand in persuading the government in Conakry to expel and arrest development aid workers from this country.

It remains to be seen whether the other development aid worker, Adolf Marx, will be taken to court. Sékou Touré has so far refused to consider a pardon.

Herr Eppler has now called on other African countries to bring pressure to bear on Guinea. Is this really all that Bonn can do?

The days of punitive expeditions and gunboat diplomacy are now over but it really is intolerable that citizens of this country are subject to such arbitrary treatment in a country that Bonn is lending an economic hand and with which Bonn would like nothing better than to be on cordial terms.

The government ought to appeal not only to African countries but also to its allies so as to achieve a degree of solidarity in the face of a self-styled statesman whose behaviour is not deserving of normal diplomatic responses.

Hans Leymann

(Kieler Nachrichten, 21 January 1971)

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POLITICS

Reckoning year for three major political parties

This year's party political conferences to decide the programme for the future will pinpoint the way ahead for the three major political parties up to the next general election, even though this is scheduled for two years hence, 1973.

The Christian Democrats lead the way with their conference this month, the Free Democrats follow up in the summer and the Social Democrats will present their programme to the public in the autumn.

Konrad Adenauer's statement on the day following his greatest election victory that, all congratulations apart, it was his business now to set about winning the next election, was exaggerated.

But the CDU, which will present its programme for the future this month will have no opportunity of amending it before 1973.

The SPD at its extraordinary party political conference this year will have to give the electorate a good idea of how it will govern after 1973 if re-elected to Bonn. Having declared its intent the party will have no further opportunity of revoking it.

The FDP, too, must map out its road ahead this year with a view to the election campaign the year after next. It will no longer be able to leave its voters in any doubt whether its voice will be the voice of Hans-Dietrich Genscher or that of the Young Democrats.

However, all the parties are as yet undecided about where they are heading. At the forthcoming party political conferences, therefore, there will be correspondingly lively discussion about the "continuance" of the CDU's Berlin programme, the interpretation of the SPD's Bad Godesberg programme and the construction placed on the FDP's social services programmes.

A big one to the right of us, a big one to the left of us and a little one in the middle – the party setup in the Federal Republic is far from being quite so simple as this.

The CDU wants to stand in the middle, the SPD does not want to stray too far from its middle position and the FDP exists hand in glove with the one and distanced from the other.

The big one on the right in this trinity fights shy of the word "conservative", the big one on the left does not want to be called "socialist". The FDP does not want to hear about right- and left-wing liberals.

However, the CDU/CSU has conservative voters, socialist-minded people vote for the SPD and the old-style and new liberal electorate that votes for the FDP have little in common.

Conservative Voters may consider the CDU too far removed from the right, socialists may wish that the SPD was more left-wing, old-style liberale may consider the FDP too left-wing whereas radical liberals consider it too far to the right,

CDU politicians are disturbed that their party political conference may treat the idea of reform too conservatively. Social Democrat politicians fear that reform will be overemphasised at theirs. The politicians at the head of the FDP cannot foresee what boundaries their party political conference will draw between liberal and socialist reform.

The last Federal state party politcal conference of the FDP in Stuttgart is a clear, all too clear, indication that the conference on a national level must take great care. At the FDP national conference to be held in Brunswick there is likely to be more stormy weather.

Those who, like Genscher, want to keep the party in the middle of the road will have to grip the wheel firmly. The FDP, having sailed past the Scylla and Charibdis of the national liberal breakway has still not sailed back into calm waters.

Willy Weyer who wanted to give his party the watchword not to recognise national liberals nor left-wing liberals, but simply and soloty "liberals" noted with bitterness that throughout the rank and file of the FDP there was talk of "conservatives" and "progressives" and some of the talk also got into print.

Those liberals who favour the things that have been favoured all along by the FDP are, to the progressives, conservatives; whereas the progressives are in the eyes of the others to a greater or lesser extent "socialists".

As the range of ground covered by the FDP increases so this diversification increases tensions within the party.

Genscher speaks of the party of the centre while Helmut Kohl puts the party virtually on an equal footing with the CDU.

The Young Democrats are able to strike up an understanding with the Young Socialists with the greatest of ease.

While the role of the FDP in the Bonn coalition is, as Genscher sees it, to act as a liberal corrective whenever the SPD veers to the left, the progressives in the party see it as their task to guide the SPD whenever it takes a conservative course.

While Genscher is worried about those voters who will not vote for the FDP if it seems to be too left-wing the progressives are hoping to win those voters for whom the SPD does not seem progressive enough.

Is it possible for the FDP to place its hopes on right-wing and left-wing voters, both at the same time? Is it not true that the progressives will lose the party the last of their regular voters without winning them any new votes?

This is a risk they are prepared to take and they say so quite openly. Those who are like the renegades of Stuttgart and claim that they will quit the party if the party does not approve their political views and intentions put the existence of their party in jeopardy.

The SPD leadership must also be prepared to contend with the kind of difficult problems that were forced on them at their extraordinary party political conference in Saarbrücken by old and new Marxists.

For both these left-wing groups the party's urge that they should think of winning votes goes in one ear and most of it comes out the other!

Those who consider themselves preachers of pure doctrine think of such argumentation as impure.

The votes that the Social Democrats have lost in recent elections were unable to shake these immovable objects even though they proved an irresistible force to the rest of the party.

The Young Socialists are obviously not taking too much notice of the SPD's urge that they should open no doors to the Communists and the party leadership cannot be content with their consoling words that no doors will be opened that cannot be closed.

The fact that the SPD itself can be suspected of the slightest tendencies towards a popular front appears to their chairman, Willy Brandt, as the greatest peril not only for the next election but also for his *Ostpolitik*.

Despite the praise that he has won, the Young Socialists are going their own way. Nor should it be believed that they received no applause for this from the elders of the party.

By the end of this year the SPD must be firmly decided where it is going; in this respect the FDP has only until the summer to make up its mind and, as for the CDU, we shall know in a few weeks' time.

Alfred Rapp

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 January 1971)

Peter Schulz – Hamburg's new mayor



(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

Peter Schulz, a 40 year-old lawyer has been elected senior burgomaster of the Hanseatic city of Hamburg. Forty-three year-old Günter Apel has been voted in as Hamburg's senator responsible for education.

Thus ended a procedure that the opposition Christian Democrats have described as "mediaeval" and the Young Socialists considered "contrary to all the conventions of democracy".

Criticism flared up when a "search committee" of six leading Hamburg Social Democrats was set up. The task of this committee was to find the most suitable man for the highest office in the city state of Hamburg.

One of the most prominent of the "searchers" was 74 year-old Professor Herbert Weichmann, who will be retiring into private life next summer after six years of sovereign rule.

Six years ago the "kingmakers" of the day, who included Helmut Schmidt, needed only 24 hours to decide that Herbert Weichmann should succeed Paul Nevermann who was retiring as Hamburg's senior burgomaster for private reasons.

This time twelve days were taken, with a few slight interruptions in between. The difficulties arose not so much from whom should be appointed – Peter Schulz was virtually the only runner right from the start – but from whom should have the role of "Schulsenator".

The appointment became vacant when Schulz was elected burgomaster, since no other than he had held it previously!

For some time no promising candidate for the position in the senate appeared to be available and it looked as though Schulz who had proved very successful as "Schulsenator" might lose the chance to become Hamburg's number one man because he could not be released from this commitment.

However, it must be taken into consideration that Hamburg's Social Democrats had plenty of time to think about the problem of finding a new "Schulsenator" since it has been generally known for more than two years that burgomaster Herbert Weichmann would be leaving his post in the midst of his legislative period.

Three candidates stood for the position of senator responsible for education and in the end Günter Apel, acting national chairman of the white-collar workers' union (DAG), received 36 of the 67 votes cast.

Apel, who has never before been a member of the Hamburger Bürgerschaft, the Hanseatic city state's parliament, has been a member of the Social Democrat party for ten years.

Since 1963 he has been actively engaged in building up the departments of education and professional policy within the DAG.

Günter Apel is a refugee from the GDR. Before he fled the communist regime he was at the *Pädagogische Akademie* in Erfurt, where he was trained as an elementary school teacher. In 1953 he graduated at the *Freie Universität*, West Berlin, in political science.

In their search for the new senior burgomaster the SPD "searchers" had an easy task. Peter Schulz is a rare combination of some of the most important qualities for this exalted position.

He is an energetic man, full of ideas, knows where he is going, yet is modest. A statement made by the previous burgomaster Herbert Weichmann, early this month when he was at a reception for the corps consulaire is fitting: "The course we are steering does not allow for any wild, adventurous divergences."

Modest entry in city's handbook

Of the 120 curricula vitae that are contained in the handbook of the Hamburger Bürgerschaft only seven contain fewer than six printed lines. One of these is the synopsis that Peter Schulz wrote of his life. Nevertheless his career is a glowing example.

He was born in Rostock, the son of a senior burgomaster and fortunately fled in good time from the East to Hamburg via West Berlin. He arrived just in time to meet Helmut Schmidt, Oswald Paulig, Wilhelm Berkhahn and others who were founder members of the Social Democrat student organisation. This group was a decisive influence on Schulz' political outlook.

Law student Schulz, an avid reader of Erich Kästner and Kurt Tucholsky, developed into a controversial public speaker who did not set out to persuade so much as to convince. In 1959 he became an attorney in Hamburg. In 1966 at the age of 35 he was chairman of an investigation committee into the death of a prisoner and his political career began its vertical take-off.

A few months later he had achieved the position of senator responsible for legal affairs. At the last Hamburg local elections in autumn he was given his most difficult job, as head of the school authorities.

He held this position with great success like a business manager who has a sure eye for policies that come within the realm of the possible, and he succeeded in keeping education policy from the crossfire of criticism.

Peter Schulz is married to a doctor and has two children. When he takes up his position as successor to Herbert Weichmann in the summer he will be Hamburg's youngest burgomaster since 1678. He will rank alongside the Prime Minister of the Rhineland-Palatinate, Helmut Kohl, as the youngest government leader in the Federal Republic.

The CDU opposition in Hamburg announced after the election that it would appraise Schulz on the yardstick of his predecessor.

Gert Kistenmacher

(Handelsblatt, 20 January 1971)

■ HOME AFFAIRS

More public property would help beat land speculators

During the course of Man's history there has always been private property, usually a subject of controversy. It was condemned as theft or hallowed as an inviolable right.

Views swayed between these two extremes. There is an echo of this in Basic Law where property is guaranteed and given special protection. But it also imposes social obligations upon the owner. *If property is misused he is* threatened with confiscation and nationalisation, both of which are envisaged as final expedients in Basic Law.

Lawyers and philosophers may argue about whether the right of property or its social obligation should be given priority. One thing is certain – constitutional reality does not fill out the framework established in Basic Law. Legislation and the administration of justice have stressed the claims of the individual more than his social obligations.

As far as the political aspect is concerned, that is not surprising after twenty years of Christian Democrat and Christian Social Union rule. The CDU/CSU always governed in a predominantly conservative and middle-class manner.

At the same time it must be admitted that the idea of placing the interests of the community above any others was greatly abused by the Nazis und Communism has not ceased to provide alarming examples.



Though the CDU's Ahlen programme just after the war proposed nationalisation, this was a reaction to the shameful role played by major firms in giving Hitler *financial support and preparing the way* for the Third Reich.

The sands of time soon obscured past memories and the idea of widespread distribution of property among private individuals soon developed as resistance to influence from the Communist East. If possible, everybody was to have his own house and his own share in the State – and therefore independence.

The intentions were good. But results were unsatisfactory in two respects – property is unfairly distributed and the social obligations of property are not very strongly emphasised.

It is obvious that this is the cause of discord. Discussions on social services policy are increasingly centred on this subject. Demands for a more equal distribution of the increase in wealth are now the fashion.

This refers to the amount of wealth arising in the industrial concerns. A wider distribution of the rights of ownership is hardly disputed in theory, even though it is not easy to carry out in practice.

Efforts of this type are always based on the prevailing ideology. Private property *as an institution is not to be violated*, only its distribution.

The question of private property becomes more explosive where land is concerned. That is altogether understandable. You only have to think of the shores of the beautiful lakes in this country that have been bought up by the rich.

In his indignation, the small man can identify himself completely with the general interest. With prices as high as they are, he cannot even think of buying a stretch of beach for himself. Free access to all must seem to be the most sensible solution to him. And it really is.

But it is often difficult to put into practice what is sensible. Otherwise a stop would have been put to land speculation. Public enterprise here constantly increases the market value of land through its planning and investment, including the building of communal amenities.

It is only the owner who derives any benefit from this. To him belongs the increase in value which he has not worked to achieve – and he does not even have to declare it for tax purposes.

Is this not one of the privileges of private property that infringes upon the interests of society and which can no longer be accepted?

The main reason it cannot be accepted is that the increase in land values makes building so expensive. This is one of the causes of the high rents now being charged. Only by stressing the general interest will building land be available under reasonable conditions.

The mechanism of the market economy must not be allowed free rein here as land cannot be increased and is naturally scarce. People offering land for sale are automatically at an advantage.

It is no coincidence that Professor Leibholz, a member of the Federal Constitutional Court, recently pointed out that Basic Law does not compel a free market economy.

That does not mean to say that the social obligations of land ownership can only be maintained by nationalisation. Pragmatic solutions must be sought.

But the wish for more public property must not be defamed from the very start and rejected as revolutionary. This is the only way to provide a sufficient quantity of recreational facilities for all.

An increase in public property could also be of advantage in the provision of building land, providing that local councils do not speculate.

It is significant for the growing realisation of the necessities that a middle of road liberal like Willi Weyer, Free Democrat chariman in the Federal state of North Rhine-Westphalie, has recommended that local councils ought to buy more land and lease it lease-hold.

To do this of course they need money and a right of pre-emption that excludes private speculative gains. If the FDP helps to put such a right into practice, at first in the Urban Construction Aid Law for development areas, it will have shown that it knows which way the wind is blowing.

Gerhard Meyenburg

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 January 1971)

Job changing negligible

Of the eight million men in the federal Republic who served apprenticeships or similar training after finishing school only five million, or 64 per cent, are still in the same profession.

This is one of the results of a survey into job-changing conducted by the Institute for Labour Market and Career Research, a department of the Federal Labour Bureau in Erlangen. The survey also showed that there were considerable differences between the various professions.

The men most likely to be working in the job they were taught are those in administrative posts or office jobs (79 per cent), electricians (77 per cent) and those in building jobs (74 per cent).

Lower percentages were recorded in the leather and tanning industry (37) and the food manufacturing trade (45 per cent).

The survey included all male workers who had had apprentice or similar training, though without having attended career training courses at vocational colleges or universities.

The labour market situation for jobs involving apprentice and similar training becomes worse, the higher the percentage of people switching to other professions where they cannot use what they have been taught and the smaller the number of persons who have come from other professions.

The labour market situation is particularly bad for coopers, wheelwrights, saddlers, cobblers, bakers, millers, basket-weavers, turners, milkers, rubber-workers, tanners and cellarmen.

The position is good for milling operatives, telephone engineers, chemical workers, laboratory technicians, insurance salesmen, plumbers, heating and ventilation installers, electrical engineers bank employees and industrial salesmen.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 January 1971)



Early retireme[nt] is costly

Retiring early can be very expe[nsive]. Despite this, about 75 per cent workers demand a flexible age lim[it] pension insurance schemes. The Tr[ade] Union Confederation has backed appeal, though without considering [re]alistically the expense it would entail.

So far little has become known about the financial consequences of a step of this type. But it can be worked out how much it would cost to retire before the age of 65.

A member of an insurance scheme who has paid his contributions since he was twenty would receive only 87 per cent of his full pension if he retired at 63. If he retired as sixty he would lose as much as 29 per cent of his full pension.

On the other hand two years of additional work would bring him a pension increase of fifteen per cent at the age of 67.

These examples show that it is worth making calculations if this is the sort of solution that will be reached with the introduction of a variable retiring age.

Any other solution can be practically ruled out as merely reducing the retirement age without reducing the pension would break the pensions insurance scheme unless contributions were raised drastically.

Estimates of the cost of reducing the retirement age to sixty vary between ... and twenty thousand million Marks. If this were to be financed contributions would probably have to be raised by ... per cent, thus reaching a total of 24 per cent. This raises the question of whether workers are willing to pay so much.

A survey conducted this Ministry of Labour showed that a majority of the representative sample of 3,000 would be willing to pay increased contributions in return for an earlier retiring age.

But it still remains unclear how much contributions would have to increase. The question of a variable retiring age raises many problems that the Ministry would prefer to do things in stages and first select a two-year margin.

The consequences for the labour market, the finances of the insurance schemes and the economy would then remain within limits. If they proved tolerable a further step could be made. The conditions of employees must be tested if the insurance schemes are to remain healthy financially.

Gerda Brings

(Kieler Nachrichten, 13 January 1971)

Bonus cars to induce workers to remain loyal to the firm

Firms are driven to extreme expedients in order to keep their workers. This is particularly true of the building trade where the large proportion of foreign workers leads to a high turnover of employees that is all the more unwelcome because of the expense.

Employers like loyalty from their workers. To encourage this praiseworthy quality, the bosses, ruled by deadlines and commissions, do not shun unusual ideas.

The latest example is the loan of a car to building workers. Franz Weissenberger, a building contractor in the small town of Bergisch-Gladbach, wants to provide all his employees from directors to casual workers with a car – for their comfort and to the credit of the firm.

At present some 900 people are working for Franz Weissenberger. He will therefore have to provide that many cars in the next few years. Every employee will receive a bright red Opel Kadett.

People higher up who often have to travel for the firm will be provided with a more powerful model. One hundred employees already have their cars.

The conditions when workers can use them are extremely good. After an experimental period everyone receives a car. What he does with it is his own affair. Road tax and insurance are paid by the firm. Petrol for private motoring, inspection and servicing must be paid from the employee's own pocket. When the time has come to exchange the car for a new model, the firm takes care of everything.

Weissenberger's employees reacted to the news with surprise and then with cheers – if they possessed a driving licence that is. It is just bad luck if they do not have a driving licence, like Weissenberger's assistant, Rolf Reutzheim.

These people will be entitled to a financial settlement. But few people want money instead of a car and Weissenberger's employees are flocking to driving schools.

This stunt soon brought Weissenberger the desired result. Rolf Reutzheim states, "This step has already had a positive effect on the labour market."

Another of Weissenberger's brainwaves has already proved just as successful. Weissenberger concluded building society contracts for his workers. They each paid in 100 Marks a month for four years and a house could then be bought with the help of an additional loan from their employer of 8,000 Marks and a 20,000 Marks building costs subsidy. These house-owners now have to pay 220 Marks a month. This sum is reduced after eleven years have elapsed.

Investing in a good working atmosphere and in the loyalty of its workers will strengthen the firm which last year had a thirty million Mark turnover and this year expects forty million Marks. "We've worked it all out," Reutzheim says.

This figure is obviously helped along by the fact that the manufacturers can only supply the cars with some delay. It will take some time for all the employees to be given a car of their own.

Reiner Langwald

(CHRIST UND WELT, 15 January 1971)

■ OUR SOCIETY

Only education can reduce violence

In the redrafted version of Paragraph 184 of the penal code – the paragraph preventing the distribution of obscene publications – Minister of Justice Gerhard Jahn plans to make the "glorification of violence" illegal.

This month the ZDF, this country's second television service, has started an analysis of the content of its programmes. This is the first step of a joint research project into brutality to be conducted by the ARD (the first television service), the ZDF and the Ministry of Health, which is also responsible for family affairs.

The controversial programme *Aktenzeichen XY* – a programme calling for viewer information on unsolved crimes – is also to be considered.

The wave of brutality in the mass media came along with the wave of nudity. The lust for violence is continually increasing and the glorification of violence is becoming more and more established in the depiction of "entertaining" brutality in "hard" pornography, sadistic comic strips and certain TV series and films.

The seeds of violence have given forth fruit – James Bond, Bonnie and Clyde and sadistic comic strip characters are the heroes of the Western world.

But there is one question that people will ask themselves. Why ban the description of violence for adults when pornography is going to be allowed as people have realised that adult citizens should decide for themselves what they want to do, read or see?

What is more, is the censorship of sadistic comic strips and brutal pornography and the removal of murder and killing from the TV and film screen really an effective method to combat the lust for violence? Is this not confusing cause and effect? Is murder no more than a symptom of a world that is becoming increasingly brutal?

Napalm bombs in Vietnam, massacres in Nigeria, hijacking, the kidnapping of diplomats, the Tupamaros in South America, the guerillas in the Middle East, Irish and Canadian terrorists, the racial conflict in the United States, the millions of people who die in motor accidents and TV violence all supplement each other.

Just as experts are still arguing about the effects of pornography, there is still some dispute on the effects that the glorification of violence has.

Some experts view it as a safety valve. The depiction of brutality is supposed to overcome nightmares, psychoses, neuroses and aggression.

Other experts stress the supposed causal connection between TV series and riots, comic strips and crime among the young, crime films and crime.

One thing is certain and that is that each individual reacts differently when confronted by violence, according to background, upbringing and education.

The effect of brutality cannot therefore be made a collective problem with a simple legal solution.

Finally, the depiction of brutality can have an analytic function if it shows what conditions provoke violence or lead to the glorification of violence or how violence becomes a matter of policy.

The depiction of violence only becomes dangerous when the distribution of roles turns it into a means of political manipulation – if for example the enemy who has been brutally liquidated stands for a social group that is discriminated against or for an oppressed race.

The analysis why and how brutality is shown is therefore more important than the investigation into possible effects.

There are for example the Western series imported from the United States. The entertaining fights and duels in these series are all ideologically fixed. It is not the death of a person that counts but only who shoots at whom and why.

If one of the Bonanza heroes is shot at, it is an act of brutality, if a Cartwright shoots, it is a legitimate means of defence or the just punishment for an injustice the dead man has committed – an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. This encourages, fatally, "healthy" public opinion and not only that of America's silent majority for whom these series are filmed. It is then not such a big step the demands for the death sentence in cases of crimes of violence.

The brutality shown as a just punishment also confirms that wishful political thinking of law and order, strengthened by the fetish of masculinity typical of these series, the identification of masculinity with violence and the myth of the political father figure, the strong man who intervenes where necessary. This rubs off on the audience and the results are well-known.

The heroes of detective series also fight for law and order, mainly by breaking the rules. Al Mundy can pinch things without being punished, but only because he is doing it for his country.

People in other series too fight and kill far beyond the bounds of legality, but at the order and in the interest of their country. They just receive their orders and are sent to the front. If the worst comes to the worst they can always make the excuse that they were obeying orders.

It is to be feared that this type of hero and his methods are understood and accepted as models for the viewer. It is all the easier to accept as these heroes and their methods are always victorious.

It would certainly be best to ban these series and films from early evening television spots that more and more young children see. But an overall ban, even if it were possible, would probably be little help against the escalation of the lust for violence.

It only goes to prove that atavistic notions of the law of the jungle still exist in our society along with the demands for more and more humanisation.

Upbringing and education are the only effective aids here. People must be made aware of the true situation and mechanism, the possible basis of prejudice, neuroses, aggression and wishful political thinking.

They must be taught that the original meaning of the word brutal was stupid, criminally stupid. A ban would only cover up the problem. It would not solve it.

Armin Halstenberg

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 16 January 1971)

FDP woman member in Munich provincial assembly shocks

Many old-time parliamentarians sat open-mouthed when the first speaker of the new legislative period in the Bavarian Provincial Assembly strode to the stained oak rostrum a few weeks ago.

The speaker was a 26-year-old woman with an aubergine maxi and blonde hair. On top of this she was pretty, eloquent, intelligent, charming and – a woman. Nothing of the sort had ever happened before in the venerable Bavarian parliament.

Ursula Redepenning is a Free Democrat and one of the youngest members of parliament in the Federal Republic. She soon hit the headlines. In Munich she started a campaign with the aim of allowing children to play on lawns with "Keep off" signs.

When the weather becomes warmer she is going to take possession of lawns by staging sit-ins with crowds of children. But doesn't she fear the police or indignant caretakers?

"I would like to see what people really do when I sit down on the lawn with a picnic basket and a crowd of children," Ursula Redepenning says.

"At present children are neurotic as soon as they start school as they are trained in overcrowded kindergartens." That is why the youngest member of the Bavarian Provincial Assembly who was allowed to speak first in the new legislative period – and she is not even Bavarian as she was born in Düren – will also deal with kindergarten questions in parliament.

Together with colleague Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, Ursula Redepenning wants to put the fear of God into the Bavarian deputies. In the neo-Classicist Maximilianeum high above the Isar it was considered infra-dig for the few women members of the Christian Social and Social Democrat Parties to speak on political matters. The Social Democrats showed more forbearance than the Christian Social Union.

"I find it terrible that women are only there as part of the scenery," says the Young Liberal who would like herself to be thought of simply as a colleague.

But it will be a long time before the men come round to this way of thinking, Ursula Redepenning says. She does not want to make politics her life-long career. She does not pay a cent of her monthly income of 2,200 Marks with expenses into the pension fund.

She joined the FDP three years ago just after Erich Mende had given up the leadership and the new liberal course was becoming evident.

At first she did not believe that she would ever have a political career. She only wanted to draw the logical conclusion from her realisation – at an age when people are members of the extra-Parliamentary opposition – that throwing stones achieves nothing and that working with the establishment is essential.

As the elections came closer, she saw that many women did not know their democratic rights and often did not want to know them. "Politics is a man's game," she was often told and the conversation was over. Ursula Redepenning then started to make women interested in politics in anti-coffee mornings.

She wishes to prove that in the Bavarian Provincial Assembly. "We must alter a lot of procedure as the generation of forty-year-olds has conformed too much," says Ursula who has been appointed member of several committees by the ten-strong FDP group.

She says that the voters support this pledge of hers. Standing in a Munich constituency with strong competition from the SPD and CSU she managed to improve her position on the FDP list from fourteenth to third.

Ursula Redepenning (Photo: AP)

Rolf Henkel

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 January 1971)

More men refuse to serve for reasons of conscience

Approximately one young person of every 62 conscripted for military service in 1970 – 1.6 per cent – claimed that they were conscientious objectors, the Ministry of Defence told the *Frankfurter Rundschau* recently.

This figure is only 0.2 per cent higher than the 1969 figure of 1.4 per cent of conscripts.

The annual number of conscripts called up for military service is on average about 200,000. After people drop out for various reasons, 170,000 conscripts actually do service.

The number of people examined for the armed services is far higher than the number of conscripts. Applications to be excused military service would normally be made after examination.

More and more reservists who have already done service are becoming conscientious objectors. There is no relation between the number of conscripts and the number of conscientious objectors. There would be no sense in making that sort of calculation.

The number of people claiming conscientious objection in 1970 was reported to be 19,000 or 1.6 per cent of those examined for military service. This figure is about 4,500 higher than in 1969. Because of the lower rate of people examined for military service then, this gave a percentage of 1.4.

In 1968 about 12,000 applications were made, about 1.2 per cent. In 1969 the ratio of the number of applications to the total number of those examined was 1.01 per cent. In the previous year it had been 0.9 per cent.

Hans Iven, the government delegate for the conscientious objectors' replacement service, told the *Frankfurter Rundschau* that a Bill to amend the law governing his organisation would probably be submitted to the Bundestag for its first reading at the beginning of February.

The Bill was discussed by the Bundesrat in December after having been passed by the Cabinet. At present various departments concerned with the Bill are discussing the changes they want made.

Hans Iven believes that the Cabinet will deal with the Bill once again after these negotiations. He says that talks are still going on with the post office and railways to see whether any conscientious objectors can be used there.

The average length of time with the colours for reservists is also being examined at present. The Bill proposes that the exercise period should be directly added to the basic service period of those in the replacement service. Hans Iven said that this would not however be compulsory – cases of hardship would be avoided.

Volkmar Hoffmann

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 January 1971)

THE ARTS

Munich upholds its reputation – a city of music



The name of the person who first described Munich as a musical city is unknown but this advertisement is always welcome to those people responsible for the Bavarian city's image.

As a result no tourist leaves the bus after a round-tour of the city without the phrase about how cultural Munich is ringing in his ears.

The monthly *What's on* programme is pushed into his hand as proof and doubters can convince themselves. In October alone the inhabitants of Munich were offered 84 musical performances.

Even the most uncultural city councillor in the neo-Gothic town hall on Marienplatz now knows that Munich has a very impressive cultural past.

He announces this proudly to his guests though he is careful to conceal that he voted against the urgently needed new concert hall that would have cost the city only fifteen million Marks as the builder was a private individual.

This is Bavarian foresight, so to speak. The Bavarian city councillor prefers nebulous plans for a municipally owned hall on the east bank of the Isar to the project that had been planned right down to the smallest detail by Paolo Nestler and Carlfried Mutschler and which would have been ready by 1972.

Apart from a number of churches and small halls the only places left for concerts are the Herkulessaal in the Residenz, the Congress Hall in the Deutsches Museum that was never planned as a concert hall and a smaller room in the Conservatory. In all, 4,000 seats are available.

"Munich – the City of Music". Anyone acquainted with the shortage of accommodation soon becomes more sceptical. The fact that regular concerts are given is a miracle as the available space is shared by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra (under Rudolf Kempe), the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra (Rafael Kubelik), the Bavarian State Orchestra (under Wolfgang Sawallisch from the autumn of 1971), the Kurt Graunke Symphony Orchestra, the Munich Chamber Orchestra (Hans Stadlmair), the Musica Viva, the Studio for Modern Music and the Musik unserer Zeit group, to mention only the most important.

On top of this come a series of concerts arranged by the Theatre Community, the Volksbühne, the Winderstein and Vedder agencies and the Munich Concert Agency and a large number of privately organised concerts like Karl Richter's evenings with the Munich Bach Choir and the Munich Bach Orchestra.

The first half of the 1970/71 season brought frequent acquaintance with Beethoven. There was more music than he had composed, and then Mauricio Kagel intervened with his *Ludwig van*. You can experience the things worth remembering in unburdened concert years too – Gulda with Beethoven, the Beaux Arts Trio with three piano evenings with Beethoven and Kubelik's and Kempe's performances of Beethoven's Ninth.

Yehudi Menuhin conducted Beethoven's First with his London Festival Orchestra using, remarkably enough, two double-basses and only four cellos.

Pianist Andor Foldes also had Beethoven in his programme. He conducted the first piano concerto from his instrument and Weber's *Oberon* overture and Mendelsohn's music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* from the conductor's rostrum.

The Munich Philharmonic Orchestra helped Foldes by concentrating and their faces showed surprise as the pianist is far from being a beginner in the conducting business.

The other anniversaries – Carl Orff's 75th and Ernst Krenek's seventieth – came off better, at least as regards the number of performances.

Kurt Eichhorn, the chief conductor of the radio Orchestra and the indefatigable organiser of the popular Sunday Concerts in the Deutsches Museum, put everything into a concert production of Orff's *Moon* and Krenek accepted an invitation from the Studio for Modern Music.

Chamber music was played, the master chatted and the audience politely clapped. This was intended to depart from the beaten track and soon became a home musik-making group.

Musical life in Munich is still conservative. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* shouted with joy when Kempe and the Philharmonic Orchestra devoted one concert evening exclusively to twentieth century works by Bartók, Stravinsky and Janácek. The Auditorium was crowded.

Concert-goers in Munich are gradually coming to accept music from the thirties while even the regulars are staying away in increasing numbers from an unimaginative series of yesteryear by the Musical Academy of the Bavarian State Orchestra.

All in all, it is just like in show business or football – whoever is top attracts large crowds. People shun neither cost nor effort when Rostropovitch came to Munich, Watched by 5,000 people he played the Bach solo suites for two evenings and concerti by Shostakovich and Schumann on the third.

People flock to see Nuremberg-born pianist André Watts, pianist Benedetti Michelangeli or Gulda demonstrating to an enthusiastic audience his theory that everything depends on interpretation.

Names such as Grace Bumbry, Franco Corelli, Karl Richter, Sergiu Celibidache, Shura Cherkassky or a famous Russian orchestra soon bring the audiences flocking to the concert halls.

But things are different when relatively unknown artists venture into the larger concert halls. Several seats remained empty for a Jessye Norman song recital, one of the most important events so far this season.

Audiences still do not know that cellist Jan Polásek is not equalled by many cellists preserved in wax. The Herculessaal was half empty when he gave a scintillating performance of Kodaly's Opus 8 for solo cello.

This is not the only reason why the avant-garde finds things tough in Munich. The Musica Viva has lost the artistic quality and social reputation it acquired under Karl Amadeus Hartmann.

Wolfgang Fortner, Hartmann's sucessor, supervises the once legendary series with no particular aim in sight. This season's highlight is Luigi Nono's *Per Bastiana tal-Yang Cheng* conducted by Bruno Maderna.

People in Munich interested in modern music can choose between the electronic experimental events arranged by Josef Anton Riedl, the Studio für Neue Musik headed by Fritz Büchtger or the Musik unserer Zeit series run by Wilfried Hiller.

Hiller's group consisting of members of the Conservatory is always providing material for discussion. The Conservatory direction does not seem to approve of the series.

Its head, Karl Höller, has not raised a finger to help it but is more interested in other things. He recently told some sixty teachers to point out to their pupils that long hair and beards were not wanted there...

Helmut Lesch

(DIE WELT, 12 January 1971)

One Mark seats at Frankfurt theatre

Frankfurt's new cultural adviser, Hilmar Hoffmann, 44, is planning to go the whole hog just three months after taking office. At the beginning of the 1972-73 season he is hoping to introduce to the adventurous *Theater am Turm* the so-called "nil fee".

If his move is approved the *Theater am Turm* would become the first stage in the Federal Republic to charge a nominal sum of probably one Mark for approximately half the performances on its programme.

Hoffmann hopes that this scheme can be tried for an experimental two-year period. The nominal charge would also include the programme for the evening's entertainment.

For the rest of the plays on the programme normal prices would be charged under Hoffmann's plan.

The point behind this plan is, as the founder of the Oberhausen Festival of Film Shorts explained, improved programmes of plays, the abolition of conventional season tickets and complete freedom in production.

In addition to this Hilmar Hoffmann considers a full theatre far more important than full coffers. For "culinary" theatre where plays of no great cultural value are produced audiences would still have to pay for admission in future.

The green light must be given by the municipal authorities before this bold plan can go ahead. If such a policy decision is made by them it would then be up to the committee that will manage the *Theater am Turm* to decide which plays will be one Mark all seats and which will be full price.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 9 January 1971)

Wide variety at Wiesbaden's May Festival

Wiesbaden's International Festival 1971 will include 29 performances with artistes and companies from ten different countries. The Festival which will be held from 30 April till June has been subsidised by the government of the capital of Hesse state with a grant of 360,000 Marks.

Alfred Erich Sistig, manager of the Wiesbaden Staatstheater, said that apart from the artistes who had already made a name for themselves with previous guest appearances in Wiesbaden the Teatro Comunale Giuseppe Verdi (from Trieste) and the Alwin Nikolai Dance Theatre (from New York) would be showing their talents in Wiesbaden for the first time.

These ensembles would be performing three operas by Rossini and Verdi, he said. The American dance troupe, which has been in existence for four years would be performing four works never before seen in the Federal Republic. They would also be putting on "Tent" which has already been broadcast on television in this country.

Old friends appearing in Wiesbaden again would be the Bulgarian State Opera Company, from Sofia, and probably the Bolshoi Ballet, from Moscow.

To provide variety there will be the German debut of the chanson singer Barbara, from Paris, a guest performance by the Forum Theater from Berlin of Peter Handke's *Das Mündel will Vormund sein* (The ward who wants to be guardian), an evening of avantgarde music with the *Ensemble 70 Wiesbaden* and a jazz evening with the bands, German All-Stars and the Eje Thelin Group (from Sweden) and Joachim Kühn.

Wiesbaden Staatstheater is presenting the premiere of Giseller Siebe's *Villons Testament* (François Villon's W...) *inter alia*.

They will also perform the Wagner cycle *The Ring of the Nibelungen* in conjunction with soloists from the Bayreuth Festival company.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 December 1970)

Eric Burdon declares war on violence

Eric Burdon, the British rock and blues singer, has called his new group, brought from America six months ago, *War*. It is well known that Burdon is acquainted with the music of coloured America and that he has witnessed racialist excesses. Is he now appealing for militancy?

If this were true, Burdon would have to disown his musical tradition. A blues singer does not conduct campaigns but records experiences that can be sad and bitter. He yearns for beauty and happiness in his songs.

There is an astute dialectic meaning behind the name of his new group. "Love is all around, love is everywhere," Burdon sings and with this categorical imperative declares war on violence.

Six of the seven musicans with whom 29-year-old Burdon began his recent tour of the Federal Republic are coloured. The group's music is also highly so.

They celebrate a rhythm and blues orgy on stage, full of life and originality and far from the introverted meditation and complicated forms of progressive rock.

That does not mean to say that the arrangements are not artistic and carefully considered. The various items, which last anything up to twenty minutes, change their beat and style incessantly.

A piece can begin saturated with blues with a charming duet between a mouth organ and a hoarse saxophone and sparing use of guitar and organ or piano.

It can then switch to a primeval dance of restrained wildness, intimated on the Conga drums, before progressing to a subtly simple series of sevenths and levelling off to a repetition of rock and roll passages where the saxophone and organ are allowed to improvise.

Burdon too can improvise. He seizes the microphone stand, looks one of the photographers surrounding the stage in the eye, leans over the edge of the stage so far that looks as if he is going to topple over and stutters odd words into the microphone with his husky negroid voice.

Another time he danced through the rows of fans on the stage of the Musikhalle in Hamburg to the rhythm played by his group. Fans were also positioned behind the musicians who were not at all put out by this. Instead the club atmosphere drove them on to new heights and they obviously enjoyed the informality of the performance.

But the *War's* music is not new. This was the form in which Alexis Korner introduced Rhythm and Blues into England almost ten years ago. We could hear this type of music once a week at the Star Club here in Hamburg during its peak five or six years ago.

Eric Burdon resurrects a form of music that had almost been forgotten in Europe – that is the pleasant surprise he gives his audiences.

Andreas Odenwald

(DIE WELT, 11 January 1971)

DRAMA

Three lacklustre plays given at Berlin

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

Recently there has been a spate of plays receiving their first ever performances or first German performances on the Berlin stages.

Three premieres within four days were the statistics, to which can be added: three plays that did not set the cash-desks ringing and brought in very little in the way of proceeds for the Berlin theatre.

From the point of view of the theme the most important, and from the audience's point of view the most attractive play was Conor Cruise O'Brien's *Mörderische Engel* (Murderous Angels) at the Schillertheater.

This was an attempt to dramatise the Congo crisis of 1960-61 and up till now it has not been performed in Europe. The author is an Irish writer, a university lecturer, a diplomat and at present Labour Member of Parliament in Dublin.

At the time of the action of the play he was a United Nations observer under the UNO Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjoeld, in Katanga.

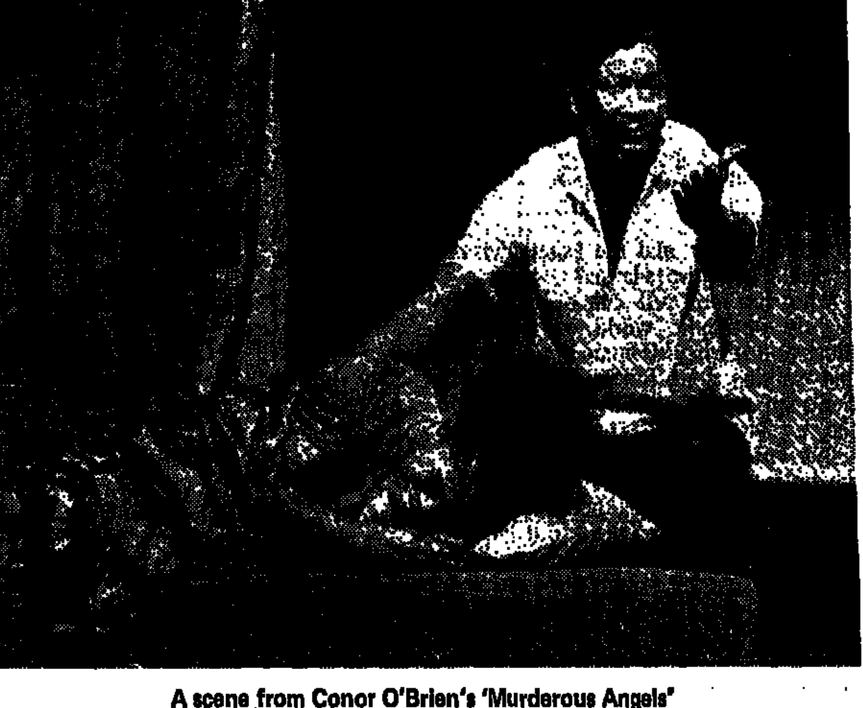
O'Brien makes use of some characters in history and others he has invented in order to show the complexes of international political and economic interests as they are inter-woven with African national interests.

This play does not in any way throw light on the complicated circumstances surrounding this chapter of modern history which are so difficult for the outsider to get to grips with.

In O'Brien's play Hammarskjoeld is shown as a twilight character. He is a promoter of peace who makes himself a myth, but a man who does not hesitate to sully his hands.

The burden of responsibility for the assassination of Patrice Lumumba is laid on Hammarskjoeld's shoulders.

The director in Berlin, Karl Paryla, has come a cropper on the intricacies of this play, which is made more irritating by photographic and acoustic fade-ins, a huge cast and its unartistic nature.



A scene from Conor O'Brien's 'Murderous Angels'

Unfortunately for him many times when his production went off the rails there were hoots of derisive laughter from the audience. This was an uncomfortable evening's entertainment and the actors were powerless to save it with the material on hand.

The Schlosspark Theater provided another unsuccessful play, disappointing in the aspect that it had been a winner in London. The modern British "bourgeois comedy" entitled in German *Menschenfreund* (Philanthropist) by Christopher Hampton was boring in this production by Martin Walser.

The evening could not be saved even though a director of the stature of Hans Schweikart turned his hand to it.

This play is Hampton's third work for the stage and is a kind of answer to Molière's *Le Misanthrope*. Hampton's central character is also a man who loves the truth. He says exactly what he thinks.

Although his remarks are not designed to hurt anybody and though he greets everybody with goodwill his outspokenness gets everyone's goat and in the end he has the same effect on people as his Gallic opposite, the misanthropist.

This figure is embedded in a chatty and partly ironic *comédie de moeurs*. There are slight shock effects and alienation effects, but generally speaking these do not hit home.

The mirror reflection of Molière's misanthropist was somehow way off beam. All that remained was the acting of the cast, above all the males who braved it all magnificently, Michael Degen, Lothar Blumhagen and Rolf Schult.

These are the characters who in their party pieces and amorous adventures, sometimes with restraint, sometimes with superior airs, either lost the day or triumphed.

With the one-acter *Hanserl* (Jackie) presented by the *Werkstatt* group as a premiere we saw once again the work of a young playwright from Graz.

Franz Buchrieser, 32, follows in the footsteps of Peter Handke and Wolfgang Bauer. The scene is the living-dining room in a petty bourgeois house in which the generation gap between the father and son comes to head at, of all times, Christmas.

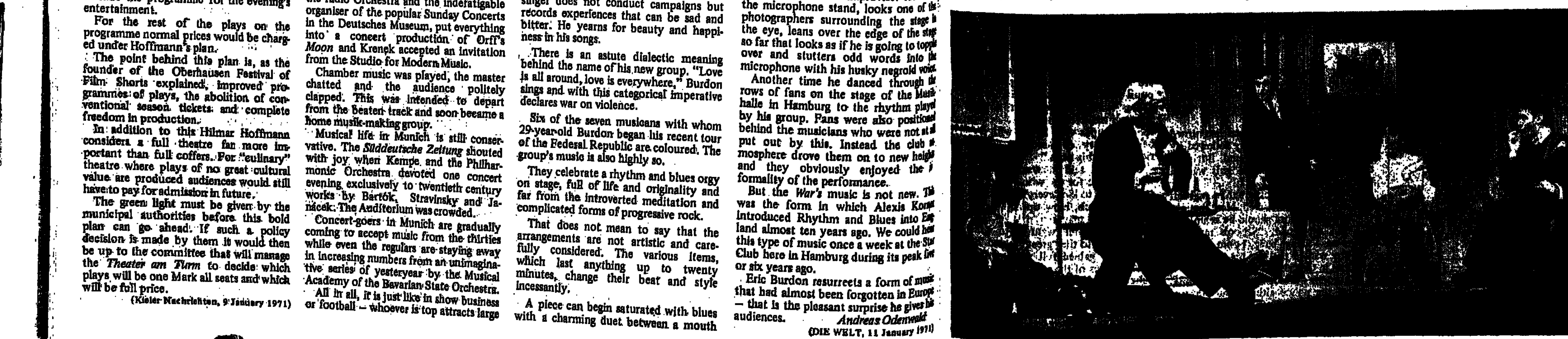
At the beginning the old man does virtually all the talking, chastising the beatnik, aimless, day-to-day life of the son with moralising petty bourgeois questions and guidance.

In his heart of hearts he is still proud of his army days and his anti-Semitism. But the young lad abhors his bourgeois conventions and rebellion is brewing up inside him. He grows more and more excited in his arguments, bombarding his father with words. The play ends with a melodramatic scene as the father is murdered.

It was thanks to the directing of Fritz Zechas that the audience stuck with the play to the end and took the melodramatic ending without a murmur of disapproval. He was ably assisted by the two leading actors, Curt Bois and Herlbert Sasse, who brought out all the nuances of the father- son relationship.

Ingeborg Kuhnigk

(Handelsblatt, 12 January 1971)



A scene from Christopher Hampton's 'Philanthropist' (Photos: Ilse Buhs)

ARTS-SCOPE

Anti aided cinema

The Central Committee for Federal Republic Film Theatres has come out strongly aginst the recent proposal to set up in Frankfurt for cinemas financed by the community.

According to the committee not only would this plan be unethical with regard to the basic principles of local government, but also it would have a negative effect for films of artistic merit which are being shown in old-established studio film theatres.

They suggest as a possible alternative cooperation between the Frankfurt city authorities and those cinemas that are prepared to show uncommercial films as long as the risk involved is partly covered by public funds.

This, they say, would cost far less than setting up special community-run cinemas and would mean that public money earmarked for the support of the cinema would be far better used.

Furthermore the profitmaking "art" cinemas would need a ruling such as this to do their duty and still survive.

(Handelsblatt, 8 January 1971)

Panel-run theatre

In future the Frankfurt *Theater am Turm* is to be jointly run by a panel. The director of the federation for popular education, Roland Petri, who has been chosen as the interim theatre manager of the *Theater am Turm* stated that the previous theatre manager, Dr Felix Müller, agreed to relinquish his post in view of this decision.

In the next few days and weeks the entire staff and company at the theatre will work out a plan for the general participation of all in the running of the theatre and the collective management will be elected.

The present schedule of programmes and preparations for next season should continue without alteration.

At the *Theater am Turm* recently there have been a number of differences of opinion between the management and the ensemble.

When Dr Müller refused to renew the contracts of two members of the company about half of the other members came out in sympathy with their two colleagues. In the meantime the two sackings have been revoked.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 8 January 1971)

Fassbinder quits

Rainer Werner Fassbinder, who holds the Federal Republic Film Prize and is at present the most prolific of young filmmakers in this country has quit the *Filmverlag der Autoren*, of which he was a co-founder along with other directors.

Asked for his reasons Fassbinder said: "Producing a film also involves advertising it, yourself."

In the latest edition of the film industry's magazine *Film Echo/Filmwoche* he claims that the publicity for his film *Götter der Pest* was catastrophic and he no longer wants to set himself up as cannon-fodder. The future lies with the smaller cinemas in his opinion.

Taking their inspiration from the *Verlag der Autoren*, the authors' autonomous publishing company, directors Michael Fengler, Peter Lilienthal, Erika Runge, Thomas Schamoni and Rainer Fassbinder set up their film promotion group last August.

It is designed to act as an international body for the production and promotion of all kinds of audio-visual publicity media.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 January 1971)

■ EDUCATION

Town planners' errors revealed in children's paintings

Since the war almost every town in the Federal Republic must have built a new residential area including its own shopping centre and school. People looking for homes would once have given anything to move into one of these modern suburbs.

Today the new suburbs with their practical residential blocks of detached or terraced houses must prove their utility in day-to-day usage.

Planners ask if the inhabitants have settled in their new town and look for local patterns of behaviour brought out by the planned environment.

The new planned towns with their broad and, in comparison to older towns, relatively empty footpaths, lawns, streets and squares and frequently with a shortage of jobs, stores and corner bars cry out for comparison with towns that have grown naturally.

This is a good subject for psychologists, sociologists and town planners. It is surprising that no writer has yet dealt with the topic.

There are few subjects that meet with such general interest as town planning. Everyone likes to exchange experiences with neighbours, to chat about public transport, urban design and his restricted environment between home, school and shops.

Who has not missed the protective shop frontages along pavements on rainy days? Who has not succumbed to the indefinable feeling of sterility, order and cleanliness on seeing the neat rows of dustbin bunkers and the exact divisions of public and private lawns?

Who has not felt cut off from the slightly antiseptic world of residential blocks on leaving his home in the evening and walking along footpaths exposed to the open strip of road between lawns on the one side and bushes on the other?

But who dares to walk here? The roads are designed to cater for rush hour traffic, Children have no place here as the few drivers travelling on them outside the rush hour period automatically mistake the broad lanes for a racetrack.

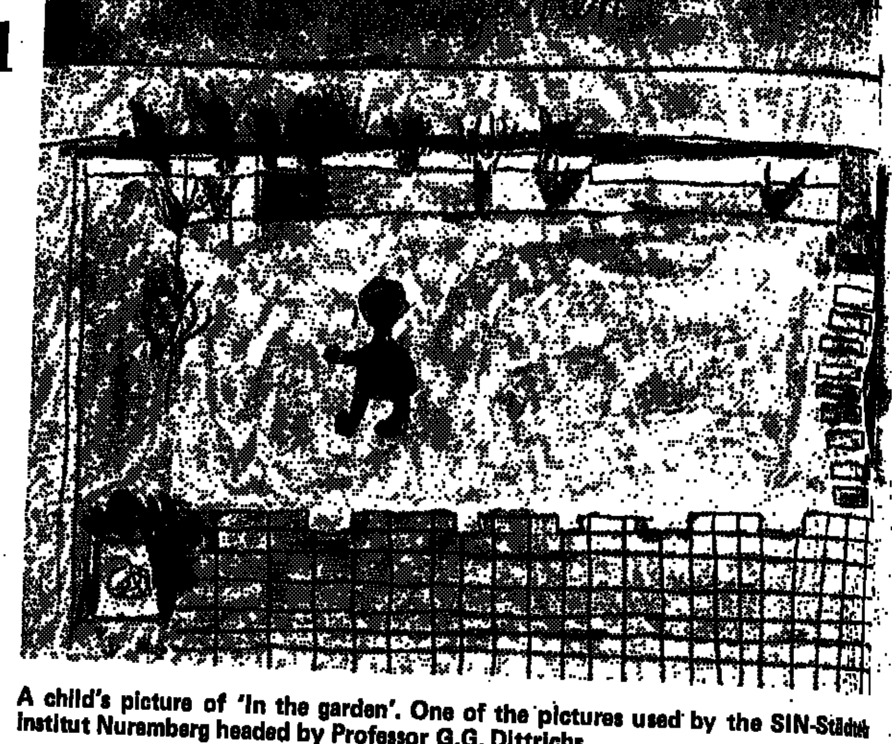
Children can use the 200-square-feet sanded playgrounds far away from the residential area which is protected by surrounding lawns.

Five to eight-year-olds have a slide and scaffolding on which they can climb. Around the playground there is a lot of greenery and seats for those people who are not alarmed by the noise of children at play.

It is probably unnecessary to provide older children, who want to escape all control anyway, with a special place to let off steam which would automatically have a detrimental effect on the surrounding greenery.

As the planners have not provided any nooks or crannies enabling young people to get on with what they want to do unobserved, it is only logical not to provide any special space, either indoors or out of doors, for adolescents who are thus left to their own devices.

This is a rewarding field for psychologists and all people who see the environment we offer our children as the symptom and cause for the diagnosed social illness.



A child's picture of 'In the garden'. One of the pictures used by the SIN-Städtebau Institut Nuremberg headed by Professor G.G. Dittrichs.

Children feel that their environment is a bastion of order and cleanliness, traffic, regulations, loneliness and boredom, as your property and mine.

"My way to school. Where I play. I go shopping for Mummy" were the subjects of a painting and drawing competition for children organised by the Municipal Building Institute in Nuremberg along with the psychological department of the University of Erlangen and Nuremberg. Unfortunately only a restricted selection of entries was published.

Dustbins, fences, walls, well cared for gardens and lawns, streets and exaggeratedly large roads with central white line and pedestrian crossings clearly predominate in all pictures.

There are few people. There are often children playing alone on the playgrounds framed by thick, isolating strips bordering the playing area.

Houses, even skyscrapers, do not occur as often as the sky and empty expanses of road. Even shops are portrayed only sketchily. And cars remain parked.

This is an exact description of what no one, to judge from all public speeches made on the subject, wanted to do to children — to organise their life and subject them to the alien order of the adult world.

But this is just what is happening to children in our new towns. Their mobility is modified, reorganised and impaired in the very place where the openness and breadth of the new urban landscapes could give the largest possible room for play.

Comparative surveys in two Nuremberg suburbs that had grown naturally showed the opposite effect. The results pointed to a child's different conception of freedom.

Children show where life is less boring. As in the new residential suburbs, far-away factory chimneys, railways and workshops are always painted in detail as interesting subjects. That should provide plenty of food for thought.

The pictures have been statistically processed. Comparing them with site plans, photographs and statements by adults makes it possible to investigate children's material and guard against an ideology of town planning.

Though individual statements are subjective, what the children say altogether without any prompting and the experiences they express without self-consciousness in their pictures are a reliable yardstick to judge town planning by, granted that urban building is not an architectural question but a social and psychological venture and only incidentally a question of transport.

This long-overdue survey, backed by the Ministry of Housing (and Urban Development) as one of its demonstration measures that usually deal in great detail with mainly technical matters, is barren.

Its purely academic nature that cannot be properly understood does not make any ruling and allows the judges of the competition to work out their own criteria from the wealth of data available.

Klaus-Conrad Haupt

(CHRIST UND WELT, 8 January 1971)

Extremely boring

Pastor Friedrich Schröter of Bayreuth asked 350 thirteen and fourteen-year-old schoolchildren what they would do if they were allowed to do what they wanted.

The children's favourite pastime turned out to be swimming, closely followed by football and pottering around. But only two of the 350 boys and girls wanted German reunification.

There was an almost unanimous wish for schools to be abolished. Most thought that going to school should be voluntary. One girl even said, "Schools must be blown up — bang, bang, boom, boom!" One boy wanted to "biff his teacher and lock him in the cellar."

The pupils did not have a high estimation of the police either. One thirteen-year-old asked to be allowed to "string them all up himself."

Another wanted to mow down all police with a machine gun while a third boy in the survey would be happy if police officials drove themselves to death on their motor cycles.

Destructiveness and hidden aggression are also expressed in other wishes. One pupil wanted to set all the trees on fire, others wanted to plunder department stores or smash a window.

Some pupils were happy with a simple bank robbery or merely assaulting the rich or "the big nobs."

One pupil said he was a pacifist and wished peace for the whole world but still wanted to kick everybody's shins in a football match, blow up all schools and assassinate all mayors.

Another pupil wanted to send all presidents into the "great beyond."

Sex too gained full treatment in the secret wishes of the pupils who are still in puberty. One boy wanted to visit a "notorious bar" in the neighbourhood, another wanted to "undress all women" and "have a different girl every day."

(WELT am SONNTAG, 10 January 1971)

■ MEDICINE

Public should know more about latest psychiatry developments

Advances in neuro-psychiatric treatment achieved in medical and pharmaceutical research in recent years are still largely unknown. Of every hundred patients admitted to a psychiatric clinic eighty will be discharged within three months while ninety will be back at home after nine months at the most.

Professor Hans Wieck, head of Erlangen University Hospital's Psychiatric Clinic, stated this when presenting his first report on efforts made to inform the public about psychiatric matters.

Almost everybody today knows that tissue rejection is a critical factor in heart transplants but the same people still believe the fairytale that endogenous depression can be caused by bereavement in the family.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

In the sphere of medicine and all the modern sciences neuropsychiatry has remained an obscure field full of mystery and emotion. Professor Wieck wishes to counter the lack of information in his discipline with what he calls the Erlangen model.

A year ago Professor Wieck was the first head of a hospital in the Federal Republic to set up a special department for neuro-psychiatric public relations work. Medical journalist Wolfgang Henke was entrusted with the task of building up the department.

The aims of this Erlangen scheme have been determined for the time being by the most obvious needs. "We must first find out what people know and think about our patients, our discipline and us psychiatrists. Then we shall have to explain any points that differ from what they imagine," Professor Wieck says.

He stresses that the public should be told of the successes of neuro-psychiatry. "This is the only way that those people will become real successes," he says.

In psychiatric treatment, patients need the help of their fellowmen more than in any other medical sphere. "Fear of dentists creates sympathy and solidarity; but fear of psychiatrists only causes loneliness."

"If a cured psychiatric patient is confronted by an uninformed and therefore unsympathetic world, if he fails to renew contacts with friends and colleagues, all medical treatment has been in vain.

Professor Wieck and his colleagues believe that public relations work in neuro-psychiatry is a continuation of treatment by other means.

Without the cooperation of the community many people suffer a lot before coming for treatment, remain alone after the cure and easily become ill again.

Part of the foundation for the proposed systematic opinion polls have been laid during the first year of work by the team responsible for the public relations work in neuro-psychiatry.

It is particularly for the post-hospitalisation treatment of discharged patients and suicide prevention that departments in the clinic must be set up. These could not function effectively without sound research results.

In one survey over 600 schoolchildren aged between eight and fifteen were asked what they thought of the mentally sick. The results were surprisingly good and contrary to expectations.

As they grow more mature children see that mental complaints are genuine illnesses. They have a very realistic, sympathetic and sober attitude towards those affected and they are more optimistic about medical progress than their parents.

Apart from conducting surveys into what people think, The Erlangen team has tried to supply the public with information.

Supported by the local and specialist press, they painted a picture of the modern psychiatric clinic as a clinic with all the modern methods of treatment, thus helping to overcome the image of an institution that kept inmates locked up.

The first pamphlet appeared in December 1970. Ten thousand copies were printed. By giving clear information, the team plans to rid out-patients of their fear of methods of examination with which they will not be acquainted.

Thanks to the great financial support of the pharmaceutical industry a large pamphlet entitled *Details of Neuro-Psychiatry* and based on practice at the Erlangen clinic is in preparation.

Professor Wieck and his colleagues are however sceptical as regards the success of the Erlangen scheme: "But what we do in the next few years will provide a plan *of action for the use of other clinics!"*

It will take years of joint work to bring about an overall decisive change in the attitudes of all sections of the community and a genuine increase in information provided.

"There can be no miracles here," the team says. "Pastors and politicians have discovered that when putting forward new views and ideas."

Hubert Neumann

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 January 1971)

Medical cards introduced

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Welfare for the Federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia in Düsseldorf has announced that all newly-born children will be issued a personal data card from January 1971 onwards.

Apart from personal details, mention of the family's previous medical history and details about the pregnancy, the card will record any special information about the birth and the results of later examinations.

The card have been introduced to the towns first of all. Doctors will receive special information about the techniques involved in examinations of this type when they attend refresher courses.

Priority is to be given to the examination of children who may be in some sort of danger. These are children whose health was threatened at some stage of their embryonic development, at birth or some time afterwards. This applies to about one in four newly-born children.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 December 1970)



(Photo: AP)

Heart disease diagnosis by telephone

A Düsseldorf heart specialist will soon be giving patients diagnoses over the telephone. Professor Heinz-Joachim Sykosch hopes soon to introduce this method to the Federal Republic. It has been in operation for many years in Sweden, Norway and the United States.

Patients, particularly those with heart pacemakers, have been under telephone supervision for some years now. Professor Sykosch is at present negotiating with the post office about the chances of putting his idea into action.

Professor Sykosch works at the Dominican Hospital that has made a name for itself by carrying out more than 1,500 pacemaker operations in the past ten years. The telephone examination scheme is planned mainly for these patients.

The heart rhythm of these patients must be kept under constant supervision but this entails frequent, tiring journeys for them.

Professor Sykosch would like to install the Swedish transmission equipment for measuring the heart rhythm curve in every local hospital in the Federal Republic.

Patients in the vicinity could then turn up at the hospital on certain days and have their electrocardiogram recorded by telephone.

The patient need only sit with the electrode against his heart. The oscillations in the curve will then be transmitted over the telephone and printed on a paper ribbon in the Professor's office in Düsseldorf.

He will then be able to tell the patient whether a journey to Düsseldorf for further treatment is necessary.

So far the transmission equipment has only been installed at the Dominican Hospital and even there it is only connected to the indoor line.

But it can also be connected with any private telephone line. The patient only has to tell his doctor and the conversation can be interrupted at the press of a button and the heart rhythm measured. The normal connection is restored after forty seconds have elapsed.

The equipment costs at present between 1,000 and 1,500 Marks. Professor Sykosch hopes that the price will fall as soon as mass production can begin.

At present the Post Office's Central Technical Bureau in Darmstadt is standing in the way of the scheme. The people there are reacting very slowly to Professor Sykosch's application.

"I have pointed out that the installation is extremely urgent and can often be life-saving," the Professor says. "But they are demanding a detailed German translation of the English description of the machine. I shall use all my influence to try and get permission as quickly as possible."

(DIE WELT, 2 January 1971)

Bureaupathy – a new curse of the modern world

Almost one third of the working population in the Federal Republic is forced to sit at a desk. It does not matter whether the desk is in a large office or in a room of its own — whatever the case, the man is in danger.

People sitting at desks fall victim to a group of illnesses for which there is no name. The medical journal *euromed* has invented a name — bureaupathy or office sickness.

The Bavarian Academy for Labour Medicine in Munich has listed the most common complaints of office-workers — these are lumbago, haemorrhoids, varicose veins and indigestion. Stomach and intestinal ulcers must be added to the list.

These illnesses are not new — but the syndrome is. When a patient has office sickness, these complaints do not occur singly but combine into a typical syndrome that is becoming increasingly common.

People sitting indoors at a desk do not use their muscles enough. The products decomposed in the metabolism of the muscles are not excreted so quickly.

The muscles then tire more quickly and the spinal column feels the effects more than any other part of the body. The result is backache, if not lumbago.

The typical posture of a person sitting at a desk also places a burden on the muscles of the neck. No other group complains of a stiff neck more than clerks — and their bosses.

There is only one way out — exercise. If possible, this should be done daily while sitting at the desk. The knees should be bent a few times every hour, the head rolled and arms swung. While doing this, the window must be open, even in winter.

In fact it is particularly important in winter as offices are usually overheated. Physiologist Professor Wolf Müller-Limmroth blames women for this as it is they who usually complain about it being too cold.

Even the slimmest typist has the typically feminine layer of fat beneath the skin. This is not so pronounced in men and acts as an isolation layer between the muscles and the skin.

With men, the muscles help to warm the skin. This happens with women far less and they therefore feel that it is too cold.

The result of overheated office-buildings are sneezing, sore throats and coughs. Professor Müller-Limmroth says that the temperature in an office in winter should never exceed 22.5 degrees centigrade.

Stomach and intestinal ulcers are typical for one special category of office — those where there is no harmony between employees. These complaints start when the atmosphere at work is bad.

Often it is not people who disturb the harmony. The trouble can be caused by new equipment such as computers if they cause a redistribution of functions.

Sociologist Professor Karl G. Specht advises bosses to prepare employees for their new role — with understanding.

This could prevent a lot of stomach ulcers.

If several employees in one office suffer from sweaty hands, palpitations, headaches and lassitude, it is often the level of noise that is to blame.

Typing errors are often an indication of this. An investigation into the subject in France showed that typing mistakes could be cut by half if noise was reduced.

(WELT am SONNTAG, 10 January 1971)

■ DEVELOPMENT AID

Self-seeking at a minimum in aid programmes

Bonn can be proud of its development aid programme. The Federal Republic has earned a silver medal in its efforts towards the fight against famine. In the past ten years of development aid this country has become one of the most important contributors.

* Between 1960 and 1969 the annual financial contribution towards helping the Third World develop tripled.
* In 1969 the Federal Republic was second only to the United States and was ahead of France in the list of most important development aid donors with a net contribution of 8.2 thousand million Marks.
* In terms of contribution per capita of the population this country was second again, this time behind France.
* Whereas other industrial nations, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) statistics for 1969 contributed on average 0.72 per cent of their gross national product towards development aid, the figure for the Federal Republic was 1.3 per cent. Only the Netherlands had a slightly higher percentage with 1.32.

Quantity does not automatically entail quality when it comes to development aid. There is unfortunately no yardstick by which the success of the Federal Republic capital and technical aid can be measured.

However, one only has to look at those countries which received development aid from this country during the sixties to see that the contributions from Bonn have helped to feed the hungry over a wide area of the world.

Between 1960 and 1964 there were 47 countries receiving capital aid from the Federal Republic. Between 1965 and 1968 this had risen to seventy recipient countries.

As far as technical aid was concerned more than one hundred countries were assisted by the Federal Republic. In addition to this Bonn is a contributing member of many international aid organisations.

Approximately twenty per cent of development aid money coming from public sources in this country is channelled through these organisations. No other industrial nation is prepared to grant such a high proportion of its national technological strength to this cause.

We are now on the threshold of another ten years of development aid. This country's achievements on behalf of the Third World will continue to increase. Development aid has long since ceased to be a charitable organisation. Just as economic weaknesses in the Federal Republic have a justified claim to State aid so do economic weaknesses in other countries all over the world have a right to aid from highly industrialised countries. Both correspond to a new social outlook.

Support of this kind, however, is far from being a one-sided affair and is of economic value to the stronger country. A fairer share of the world's riches can help to break down political and social tension. In the longer term industrial developments in the Third World will create new markets as a booster to world trade. Viewed in this light, development aid is not alms but an investment. It creates for us powerful business partners – the poor are never merchants.

This attitude towards development aid may be less romantic than the idea of the prosperous giving unneeded riches to the poor but it is more permanent than a *purely emotional relationship. This is one* answer to the question why we are helping nations build roads through primitive forests when our own transport system, through the Ruhr for instance, is so poor.

Rationally motivated development aid must more than ever study the relationship between outlay and returns. Returns per Mark would undoubtedly be greater if this country were to concentrate on certain areas rather than spreading development aid money all over the world. Perhaps we would do better in this aspect to fatten one bird rather than spreading seed for them all.

Up till now, however, talks and the exchange of information and experience between representatives of various countries and organisations in the developing country in question have always depended on the goodwill of the various representatives and their initiative. The desire to promote personal influence and national prestige is often greater than genuine concern for helping the developing country as effectively as possible.

The best basis for coordination and exchange of experience would be the United Nations development programme. UN representatives would not only help to provide neutral ground but all could benefit from the wealth of experience of this organisation with its international team of experts and its organisations working all over the Third World.

The Federal Republic is, therefore, setting a good example by supporting the United Nations development programme and other international development organisations more generously than other countries.

It is more rational if discussions are held within these institutions on, for example, the agricultural conditions in an underdeveloped country, and if new building materials and architectural innovations are discussed in international groups than if each industrialised nation goes it alone.

Minister for Development Aid Erhard Eppler, as the representative of one of the most generous contributing countries, must make himself a leading light in moves towards closer cooperation between industrial nations on development aid programmes.

For Bonn to play a role corresponding to its financial contributions it is essential that those responsible for development aid within the government concentrate their efforts in and around the Ministry for Development Aid.

For as long as several voices are raised at international conferences the Federal Republic voice remains weak and may not be heard.

Michael Jungblut

(DIE ZEIT, 8 January 1971)

Bonn government new development aid projects

The Ministry for Economic Coope tion is continuing to promote t work of the research station in Dortmu at present engaged on experiments t provide the developing countries of t Third World with the albumen that lacking in their diet.

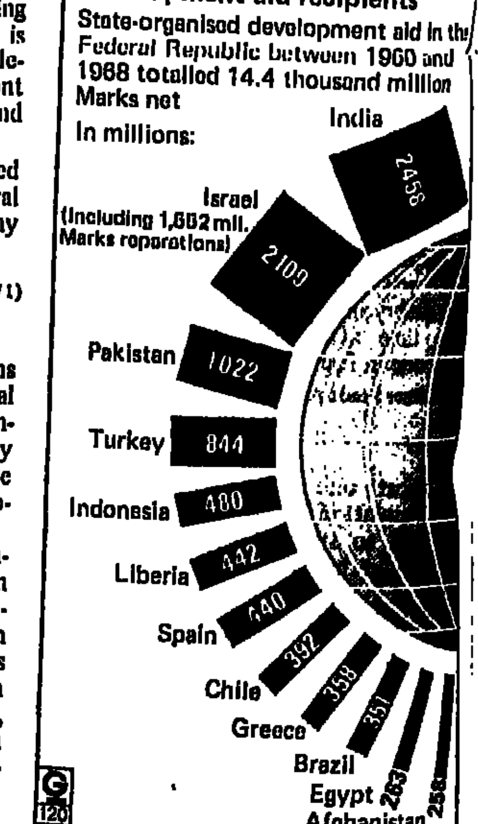
The results of their work to produce protein-containing foodstuff were recen ly exhibited in Lima, Peru. Despite t efforts being made to protect the llam the Peruvian government fears for the existence and already, according to th Ministry, which is responsible for de velopment aid, meat can only be offere for sale in Peru three times a week.

Working on a concept developed by the Ministry for Economic Cooperation i Bonn in conjunction the Peruvian govern ment, Trujillo University will begin o the production of green algae next yea

In the manufacture of sugar-based spi products carbon dioxide is given off a waste product and this together wi energy from the sun provides the bas conditions for making micro-algae cu tures.

According to the Ministry no gre difficulties are expected in introducin this kind of algae particularly in parts of the country where free-growing fresh water algae have been used for some time in the production of food items.

In connection with this the Ministry has issued a report on other development



projects which have been carried out with support from the Federal Republic.

An advisory committee is working on a study project that will help in the development of Morocco as a tourist centre.

Extending foreign travel facilities will be an important part of the next Moroccan five-year plan between 1972 and 1977. This study which is being financed in conjunction with the technical aid programme is designed to produce a definite policy for the long-term development and extension of tourism in Morocco.

To pave the way for possible future cooperation with the Mauritanian govern-

Continued on page 11

Günter Grass proposes African new town

A new project is being discussed in whispers, but little is at yet being said aloud about the Grass Project for development aid in Africa. No one wants to endanger this new kind of move in the development aid sphere by over-hasty publicity, even though it is being initiated by Günter Grass, author of *The Tin Drum*, *Cat and Mouse*, *Dog Years* and *Local Anaesthetic* and should create some good publicity for this country's development aid ventures in Africa.

Outlines of the project are already beginning to take shape. Trade unions in the Federal Republic, Sweden and Yugoslavia are planning to set-up a model development in Tanzania. This would be a kind of African new-town.

Agriculture or fishing would be the basis of its economy, but it would also be responsible for working on raw materials and developing the kind of material and social infrastructure that is essential for a town of this kind.

This project is interesting and worthy of pursuit for many reasons. It is the first time that the trade unions from three different countries with vastly different social structures have proposed a joint development aid scheme for a Third World country.

It is the first time that the initiative for such a move has come from a well-known author such as Günter Grass, and that publicists and journalists from all three participant countries have expressed an interest in following the scheme closely from beginnings to fruition.

This is a bold new move to make development aid what it really should be, an international undertaking by the "haves" to raise the standard of living in the "have-not" countries without becoming bogged down in a welter of statistics and technological expressions which always make those involved lose sight of the ideals behind helping the Third World.

The Bonn Ministry for Economic Cooperation is waiting for reports from the team of experts that will research into this project in Tanzania in February.

But basically Erhard Eppler's Ministry is ready to give the go-ahead for the Grass project. This is only logical since the Ministry has been for some time advocating the kind of joint venture that is proposed for this scheme.

A project of this kind involves more than doling out the money and letting the locals get on with it! It means giving technical and educational aid and organising markets for products and further education schemes for workers.

The Grass Project stands or falls on whether it can succeed in a country where the Chinese have been very active in development aid in producing fruitful cooperation of trade union organisations from three countries where the social set-up is so different. Tanzania's government and trade unions are basically prepared to take the risk that the scheme can succeed. But there are many problems in the various details.

If this bold project succeeds the foundation stone of improved cooperation within Europe will have been laid. Politically, economically, culturally and in the sphere of development aid Europeans are today weighing up how the stagnation of European integration can be overcome, so that the countries of Europe when acting outside the frontiers of the European Economic Community can do so pragmatically and cooperatively in a "European" fashion.

For example, in the political sphere this would mean following the directives that were worked out by the Common Market foreign ministers last year in Munich.

They are setting great store by the "feedback" effect. Cooperation that is tried out on foreign soil in its turn has an effect on conditions within Europe as well.

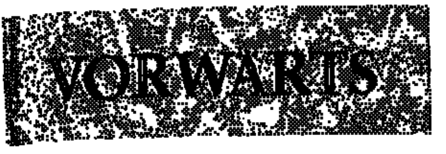
This may seem like a round-about way costing much time and energy, but it is at the same time a way that proves pragmatic in a situation where it is uncertain what degree of integration in western Europe and cooperation between western and eastern Europe can be achieved for the sake of peace and security on the Continent.

Rolf Breitenstein

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 January 1971)

■ AGRICULTURE

A psychological look at farming problems



Why is the farmer always being told to keep calm and quiet when it can be proved clearly and objectively that producer prices for agricultural products are going down? Why is it that although farmers have increased their productivity against a background of increased production costs their income has remained at the same level?

This question is often being asked and frequently being discussed. It was asked and discussed recently by the *Informationsgemeinschaft für Meinungspflege und Aufklärung* (IMA) on the tenth anniversary of the foundation of this organisation for gauging and evaluating public opinion.

They considered the question and sought the answer from a completely different point of view than usual.

Professor Tobias Brocher from the Sigmund Freud Institute in Frankfurt was present. He blamed out-of-date text books. He said that these were largely responsible for the lack of general understanding of the farmer and the problems involved in modern agriculture.

Often they are far removed from reality and only bolster the tendency for town-dwellers to disregard the problems of the farmer and dismiss him as a "stupid peasant".

The ~~deeper and probably~~ psychologically more decisive reason is, however, located by Dr Brocher in the realms of the unconscious.

For too long there has, he claimed, been a tendency to hush up conflicts with an ideology of let's-be-nice-to-each-other. This means that those responsible are neglecting their democratic duty, which is to remove conflicts by means of hammering them out at the negotiating table.

In this respect there have been sins of omission committed in the past 25 years, the effects of which are only just beginning to make themselves felt now.

Whereas in the past there was a high degree of contentment at all levels and from this the deceptive hope was fostered that conflicts could be ignored in the hope that they might go away, today we are confronted with the undeniable fact that this is no longer possible. And more than this we can now see that our procrastination has backfired and we have a good deal of lost ground to make up.

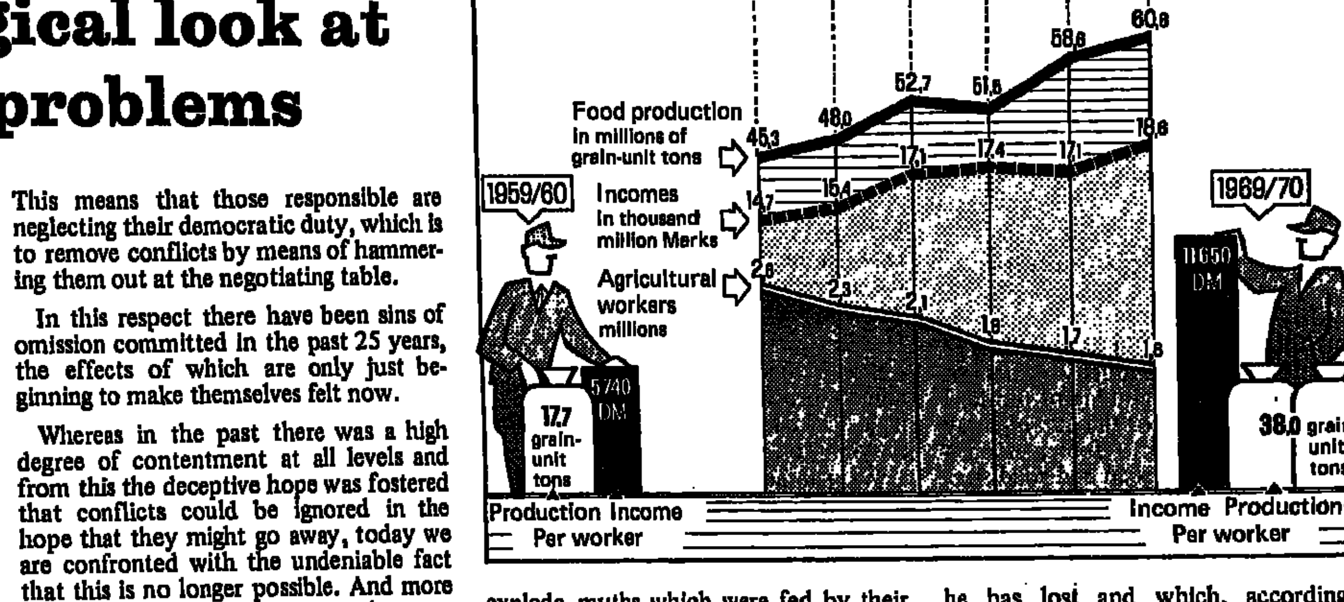
Unfortunately this is the kind of problem that is always heaped upon the shoulders of those at present in power, even though it can hardly be considered their responsibility that action was not taken sooner when another group was governing.

Very few people are even now clear in their own minds that the problems we are now faced with are deep-rooted in the past.

So far it is difficult to disagree with anything Professor Brocher has said. This is especially true since the policy was to play the matter down as far as possible and at the same time to set this profession in splendid isolation. All this served in the past to aggravate these tendencies.

This has fortunately begun to change already. Now the Farmers' Association is striving to bring into action a kind of self-help, which is the essential prerequisite for a clear diagnosis.

As in the mining industry the farmers are increasingly involved in trying to explode myths which were fed by their self-glorification.



The root of the trouble as Dr Brocher sees it seems to be too simplistic, namely that the agricultural community was, because of "sheer unadorned envy" made the scapegoat of the industrial society.

Brocher says that to put the story in a nutshell large groups of people in our technically so perfect world unconsciously found it annoying that we were still forced to do something as basic as growing crops, that we were dependent on the weather and could not control it and that nothing could be done to alter the natural laws of cultivation and fertility for the benefit of mankind.

This seems to be a hoary old idea of the Man who places great faith in the technology he has invented and the industrial society that has sprung up.

At the same time this Man attempts to rule out the advantages that have been brought to him in compensation by this industrial society. Secretly he suspects that his dependence and insecurity has in reality been made far greater.

And so there arises a resentment towards the farmer which quite unconsciously tends to take it out on him for the things in life that the townie feels he has lost and which, according to Professor Brocher, he has in reality lost!

This may be basically a correct analysis of the attitudes of the town worker towards the man who still earns his living in the fresh air of the country away from the asphalt jungle.

To work on this theory – if this is in fact essential – it is necessary first to break down the internal disparity in the farming profession. This is an enormous disparity and to get rid of it would be a monumental job.

For as long as agriculture drags in its wake those troublesome branches of the industry, which, according to Dr Brocher, could not possibly be regarded either with sheer nor unadulterated envy as an example of the joys of independent working by anyone, we shall have to accept that demands for general price increases will only in certain circumstances meet with all-round approval.

If shoes and clothes were not made in what Professor Brocher calls "monotonous factories", but were still produced singly by cottage industries many farmers would indeed enter the Common Market "barefoot" since they would not be able to splash out on these commodities.

It would certainly be a good thing if in future "the omnipresence of agricultural work as the basis of life and as a social function" were given more publicity than at present in order to break down the barriers between the farmer and the outside world and create more mutual understanding between the two.

In future the process of structural changes in agriculture and the abandonment of the age-old practice of mythological aloofness and traditionalism among farmers must go hand in hand. It is not only in Bavaria that this is firmly rooted.

Manfred von Juterczenka

(VORWÄRTS, 14 January 1971)

Continued from page 10

ment in the sphere of mining development a representative of the Federal Republic institute for subterranean research will travel to Mauritania to test the geological conditions and see how far they are suitable for mining development.

This expert adviser will decide where the emphasis is to be laid in prospecting projects and geological and economic ventures.

The close cooperation between the Federal Republic and Rwanda has been maintained with the visit of a six-man government delegation recently led by the Rwandan Foreign Minister Nsanzimana to the Ministry for Economic Cooperation in Bonn, where important talks were held.

Further economic and development aid involvements in the agriculture, road-building and radio sectors was agreed on. In addition to this the Federal Republic will assess whether it is able to help Rwanda develop its tourist trade.

Medicaments and surgical instruments worth 126,000 Marks have provided a further contribution to the development aid programme which this country has pursued since 1966 in Toricada (South Dahomey). This programme has also included demonstrations of modern agricultural and siloing methods, dissemination of advice to two local handicraft companies as well as administrational aid to two medical centres in Toricada.

Two volunteers in the Federal Republic Development Aid Service (DED) are working there on health education and social work.

Medicines and medical equipment are provided for this scheme by the Savalon and Togbin medical centres which are already in the charge of DED volunteers.

After extensive investigations into the hydrological conditions in the town of Zinder (South Niger) the freshwater system is to be extended with Federal Republic capital aid. Credit of 8.8 million Marks will be granted for a period of thirty years of which the first eight years are free from amortisation. In order to keep the price of the drinking water low a "nominal interest rate" of one per cent will be charged.

A qualified economic adviser from this country will be at the disposal of the Prime Minister of West Cameroon for three years in order to help with the introduction of the five-year plan and other government projects. In addition this expert adviser will organise leaders to carry on this work in future.

Following a study carried out by Deutsche Eisenbahn-Consulting, the Bonn government has decided to grant 10.8 million Marks capital aid to the Congo (Kinshasa) transport company (CFL) for the purchase of rail stock.

This loan will be for thirty years at an interest rate of 2.5 per cent and with eight years free from amortisation.

The transport company of the Congo Democratic Republic is to be offered advice from a consulting firm in this country for the preparation and introduction of the project.

Two Federal Republic air transport experts are to advise the management of Yemen airlines during the next two years. The airline also requires fully trained personnel, and apart from these two highly qualified men this country will be sending skilled workers from time to time to Sana'a.

Georg Gusmann

(Handelsblatt, 8 January 1971)

■ MOTORING

23 million brochures publicise new highway code

Hannoversche Allgemeine

This third weekend in January one of the largest-scale publicity campaigns ever will mark the beginning of the final stage of preparations for the new highway code due to come into force, bringing both the rules of the road and road signs up to date, on March 1.

Transport Minister Georg Leber is the man ultimately responsible for a mammoth imprint of 23 million full-colour brochures explaining and illustrating the new rules of the road and distributed to every household in the country.

In a short introduction Herr Leber describes the main aim of the reform, which is the most comprehensive there has ever been in this country, as that of ensuring "greater safety on the roads of Europe".

Rules, regulations and road signs now conform fully to those in neighbouring countries. The Federal Republic motorist can now "feel at home anywhere in Europe".

The many new rules, he writes, have been introduced with but one aim in view – "Drive clearly, communicate with one another. So that everyone knows what the others have in mind and can decide accordingly".

In order to make the brochure as attractive as possible the Road Safety Council, which is responsible for the entire campaign, has included in it a road safety test with more than 300 holidays to be won.

It also includes a vest pocket illustrated highway code that motorists must have read before they can hope either to get the answers right and win a free holiday or drive safely and correctly after March 1.

Stacked on top of one another the 23 million brochures would be six miles high. Packed in bales they would fill a sixty-waggon goods train.

Yet they merely mark the beginning of the final stage of a thirteen-million-Mark campaign to prepare the general public for the changes.

Television and cinema newsreels will be lending a hand with any number of short films. Four special postage stamps are to be issued in February drawing attention to four of the main changes. Special material is to be employed to bring the changes home to schoolchildren.

Foreign-language issues of the brochure have been printed for the nearly two million foreign workers in the country, 100,000 each in Turkish, Serbo-Croat, Greek, Italian and Spanish, 40,000 in Portuguese and 20,000 in French.

The organisers are less worried about foreign workers and schoolchildren than about the millions of experienced motorists who feel so safe on the roads that they often fail to notice changes. It is hoped to reach them via television and magazines if nothing else.

The new highway code regulations affect pedestrians as well as motorists. For the pedestrians zebra crossings are an even better bet. Motorists will now only be allowed to overtake before a zebra crossing provided they can clearly see



New highway code brochures to be handed out to members of the public (Photo:

that they will not then represent a safety hazard to pedestrians.

Pedestrians also have priority over motor vehicles rounding a corner but on country roads in the dark they must keep well to the left, proceed in single file if need be and preferably – for safety's sake – wear something brightly coloured.

The number of road signs has, if anything, increased but the Ministry nonetheless hopes there will be fewer of them on the roads. That at least is the intention.

Four new road signs are particularly important because they will make their appearance over night as it were at corners everywhere.

First there is the new octagonal stop sign. Red with a white border it is a newcomer to virtually every country in Europe. Its shape makes it recognisable even when the legend is obscured by snow and dirt.

It means stop whatever happens. The triangle with the apex pointing downwards continues to mean slow, major road ahead. An arrow with a line through it on the usual upright triangle means that road-users have right of way at the next intersection only.

A major road is indicated by a yellow lozenge with a white border. It supersedes the existing lozenge in red on white and also the Federal highway number, which is no longer a guarantee that the road has priority.

Maximum speeds will continue as before but the newcomer, a blue circle with figures on it, indicates a minimum speed. Anyone who holds up traffic unnecessarily by driving too slowly is now liable to prosecution.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 January 1971)

Detmold architect tackles road safety hazard

One day in September 1965 a motorist on the Bremen-Hamburg autobahn witnessed a fatal road accident – one of many that occur on this country's overcrowded roads day by day.

Hans-Hermann Stühreriberg, 52, an architect from the tiny village of Pivitsheide near Detmold, saw a Volkswagen estate car skid and impale itself on the end of a crash barrier. Five of the six marines in the car died.

Stühreriberg was only one of a number of motorists who happened to witness the crash and its outcome but his reaction differed from that of the many others who drive away again, a little shaken perhaps, but soon forget the chaotic scene because death on the roads is felt to be something inevitable, a stroke of fate.

The young victims, Stühreriberg reasoned after confrontation with the catastrophe, could well have survived had they not fallen foul of a sure cause of accidents, the open ends of the steel girders that function as crash barriers by the side and in the central reservations of German autobahns.

Since when the problem of crash barriers on which cars can be impaled like stuck pigs has preoccupied architect Stühreriberg.

On business trips, at weekends and later on weekdays too he carried out comprehensive studies of the crash barriers on the autobahn between Herford and Hanover and Hanover and Hamburg.

He made a note of every point at which the crash barriers represented an accident risk, either taking photographs or making sketches.

"Many authorities", his wife says, recalling her husband's first contacts with the powers that be and their reactions, "were amazed to begin with that an ordinary man in the street is capable of spotting anything that is not in order".

Later though, when Stühreriberg tirelessly informed the police, autobahn and road depots of the results of his industrious and expensive research (Stühreriberg himself reckons to have spent 80,000 Marks in the process) the scepticism and polite but cool distance that private endeavour often encounters when mistaken for the work of a busybody gradually gave way to respect and support.

Stühreriberg's family lent him enthusiastic support, proving willing to make sacrifices. His wife dealt with the correspondence and two of his four sons either accompanied their father on his extended tours of inspection or worked overtime in the family firm of builder's joiners to pay for the cost of their private accident researches.

"My husband was simply unable to give up," Frau Stühreriberg says by way of explanation why they kept it up for more than three years. "Time and time again he saw crash barrier accidents" – just before Christmas 1966, for instance, when a young man was impaled and died in his Volkswagen beetle.

Stühreriberg finally set out the comprehensive results of his private research in a three-part study he soberly outlined in newspaper and television interviews and also submitted to the Federal Ministry of Transport.

The solution he proposed was to dip the final section of crash barrier and anchor the end firmly in the ground. Experts voiced misgivings that this might have a dangerous catapult effect.

Crash barrier specialist Stühreriberg made mincemeat of this argument by taking the risk of trying it out for himself. He drove his own car time and time again against a test section the end of which had been hammered into the ground.

The upshot was that the steering was in such a bad way that "I had to sell the car for a mere 400 Marks" but not once was the car catapulted into the air. It always ended up perched astraddle the crash barrier.

Even so it was not until the end of 1969 that the courageous architect was rewarded for his hard work. After Ministry of Transport specialists had discussed the Stühreriberg report ("An impressive piece of work, sober and free from emotion," according to Ministerial Counsellor Busch) with Herr Stühreriberg in person the Ministry issued instructions for the elimination of the killer crash barriers.

Stühreriberg, the Ministry officials in Bonn now say, had our support all along the line.

News of a further, albeit unexpected reward reached Pivitsheide shortly before last Christmas. In recognition of his civil courage and work for the public good, Bonn State Secretary Hildegard Hamm-Brücher wrote, he is to be awarded the Theodor Heuss Medal on 14 February in Munich.

The body responsible for awarding the Theodor Heuss medals and prizes is the Theodor Heuss Foundation, set up in 1964, which hopes that its annual awards in memory of the late Federal President will help to promote freedom and democracy.

People to whom the award has already been made include Bundeswehr reformer Graf Baudissin, author Günter Grass, President Heinemann, TV commentator Hans Heigert and the Student to the Country campaign, which a few years ago made a concerted effort to persuade working people to allow their children to benefit from higher education.

This is not to mention Mannheim public prosecutor Frau Just-Dahlmann, a committed critic of the mealy-mouthed morals of the section of the criminal code dealing with sexual offences, and Karin Storch, a young Frankfurt girl who some years ago called for disobedience in a school-leaving ceremony speech.

Architect Stühreriberg is delighted to learn that he is to join this select company. He feels it to be a gratifying sign that the often misunderstood work of a private individual is both necessary and meaningful.

Now that a chance encounter has made a traffic expert of him he is working tirelessly on another project. Worried by the protest lodged by top-flight race drivers all over the world he is planning to check how safe the Nürburgring racetrack is.

Karl-Heinz Krumm

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 January 1971)